

Fifteenth Sunday of
PENTECOST

September 21, 2025



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Rev. Dr. John L. Heins
Assisting Pastor
Rev. Ronald Guettler
Assisting Pastor
Rev. James Rolf
Assisting Pastor
Rev. Peter Nickel
Assisting Pastor
Rev. Alan Eisinger
Assisting Pastor
Rev. Dr. Gerberding, *Emeritus*
Rev. J. Gruetzner, *Emeritus*

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Lutheran Church

September 21, 2025

PRELUDE

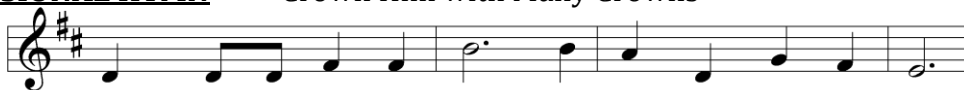
“Prelude in A Minor”

J. S. Bach

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

LSB 525



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,
3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave
5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.
Whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The
No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.
down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

INVOCATION Mt 28:19

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People:  Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 113:1-3, 7-8

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

People: **Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!

People: **He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,**

Pastor: to make them sit with princes, with the princes of His people.

People: **Praise the Lord.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 Timothy 2:5/ Psalm 51*

Pastor: Mighty and merciful Lord, with heavy hearts we confess our sin to You.

People: **Captive to sin, we have sinned against You, mighty God, in thought, word, and deed.**

Pastor: When we have ignored the plight of the poor,

People: **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;**

Pastor: When our joy is dependent upon our possessions and our wealth,

People: **according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

Pastor: When we have failed to be generous to others as You have been generous to us,

People: **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.**

Pastor: When we have been foolish with the resources You entrust to us, instead of using them to further Your Kingdom,

People: **Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.**

Pastor: For all of our sins, those of which we are aware, and those of which we are unaware,

People: **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

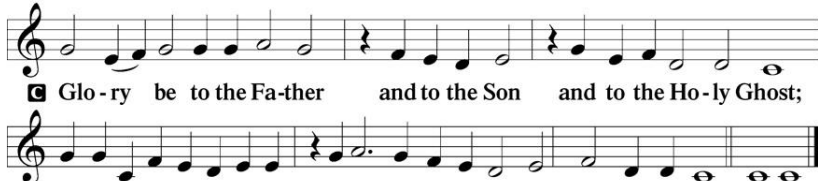
Pastor: There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **♪Amen.**

THE INTROIT *Psalm 119:137–138, 140; antiphon: v. 144*

Pastor/Choir: Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live. Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your rules. You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness. Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.

THE GLORIA PATRI



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

THE KYRIE Mt 9:27, 15:22


LSB p. 186

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten”

LSB 914

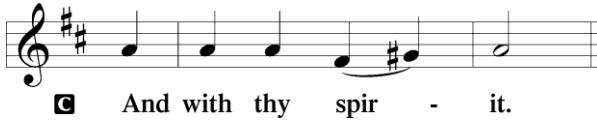


1 Light of Light, O Sole - Be - got - ten Ra - diance of the
2 Word e - ter - nal, through Your be - ing God cre - at - ed
3 Still Your brood - ing Spir - it hov - ers O - ver cha - os,
4 Come, Lord Je - sus, by Your Spir - it In our hearts Your
Fa - ther's face, Word made flesh, who lived a - mong us
all we see, When the emp - ty spac - es ech - oed
dark and deep, Call - ing out with in - vi - ta - tion:
work be - gin, Bring the heal - ing res - to - ra - tion
Full of truth and full of grace, Shine up - on our
With the Fa - ther's “Let there be . . .” Light and life burst
“Rise, a - wak - en from your sleep; Christ the Lord will
Of Your im - age lost by sin; From Your full - ness
hu - man dark - ness; Pierce the night that shrouds our race.
from the glo - rious Pow - er of Your maj - es - ty!
shine up - on you And from death your soul shall keep.”
all re - ceiv - ing Grace on grace, new life with - in!

THE SALUTATION 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Lord God, Your generosity exceeds our understanding. Guide Your people to practice generosity wisely and abundantly, so that the world may catch a glimpse of Your unfathomable generosity through us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **♪ Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Amos 8:4-7

(The Lord will remember the sins of those who do not repent.)

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, ⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, ⁶that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE

1 Timothy 2:1-15

(For there is one God and one mediator, Jesus Christ the Lord.)

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM @10:30am

“Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses”

Dale Wood

The Cathedral Choir; arr. Jeffrey Blerch; words by Stephen Starke.

See LSB 667 in your hymnals to follow along or join in (choir alone on v.3)

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-15

(Jesus tells us that you cannot serve God and money.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

People:



■ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹ He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ² And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ ³ And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management 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 removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷ Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸ The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹ And

I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

¹⁴ The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People:



THE NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven; and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

HYMN OF THE DAY “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God”

LSB 941



1 We praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
2 The band of the a-pos-tles in glo-ry sing Your praise;
3 You, Christ, are King of glo-ry, the ev-er-last-ing Son,
4 You sit in splen-did glo-ry, en-throned at God's right hand,



The Fa-ther ev-er-last-ing, by all the earth a-dored.
The fel-low-ship of proph-ets their death-less voice-es raise.
Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res-cue ev-'ry-one:
Up-hold-ing earth and heav-en by forc-es You com-mand.



To You all an-gel pow-ers cry a-loud, the heav-ens sing,
The mar-tyrs of Your king-dom, a great and no-ble throng,
You laid a-side Your glo-ry, were born of vir-gin's womb,
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi-nal day,



The cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim their prais-es to You bring:
Sing with the ho-ly Church through-out all the world this song:
Were cru-ci-fied for us and were placed in-to a tomb;
So help Your ser-vants You have re-deemed by blood, we pray;



“O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth;
“O all-ma-jes-tic Fa-ther, Your true and on-ly Son,
Then by Your res-ur-rec-tion You won for us re-prieve—
May we with saints be num-bered where prais-es nev-er end,



Your maj-es-ty and glo-ry fill the heav-ens and the earth!”
And Ho-ly Spir-it, Com-fort-er— for-ev-er Three in One!”
You o-pen-ed heav-en's king-dom to all who would be-lieve.
In glo-ry ev-er-last-ing. A-men, O Lord, a-men!

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SERMON

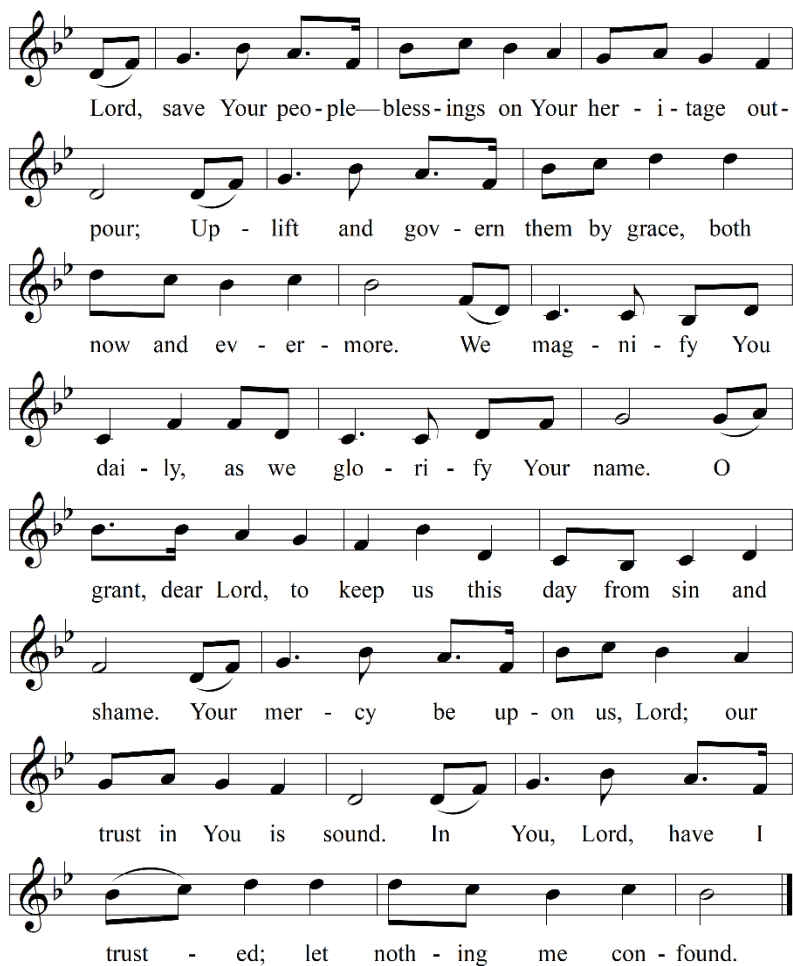
“All Great Confessions of Faith are Christ-centered and Clear!” Mt 16:13-18

Rev. Dr. Stephen Starke, Emeritus

Hymn Writer: “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God”

OFFERTORY

verse 5 of LSB 941, written by Rev. Stephen Starke, 2019



Lord, save Your peo-ple—bless-ings on Your her-i-tage out-
pour; Up-lift and gov-ern them by grace, both
now and ev-er-more. We mag-ni-fy You
dai-ly, as we glo-ri-fy Your name. O
grant, dear Lord, to keep us this day from sin and
shame. Your mer-cy be up-on us, Lord; our
trust in You is sound. In You, Lord, have I
trust-ed; let noth-ing me con-found.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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VOLUNTARY

"We Praise You and Acknowledge You"

Tom Trenney

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

9am continues with the benediction


† **The Order of Holy Communion** †
@10:30am

THE PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE


Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Tim. 4:22*

People: 
☐ And with thy spir - it.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Lam 3:41*

People: 
☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. *Ps 100:4*

People: 
☐ It is meet and right so to do.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who bore all our sins, including the sins of neglecting the poor and those in most need of Your mercy. By His resurrection and ascension, He has opened the way for us to live, love, and serve You from purified and faithful hearts. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *Is 6:3*

LSB p. 195

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION *Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Co 11:23-25*

THE PAX DOMINI *Jn 20:19*

Pastor: The peace of Lord be with you all.

People: ♪ Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI *Jn 1:29*

LSB p. 198

♪ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

For those with health concerns, there are gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic white wine available.

TWO STATION COMMUNION:

If you would like to receive communion at the altar, take the path to the left before the chancel step.

If you would like to receive communion in a continuous line, take the path to the right before the chancel step.

“O Lord Jesus Christ, Redeemer”

tune: LSB 700

1 O Lord Je - sus Christ, Re - deem - er, We ex -
2 You are wor - thy, ev - er reign - ing As the
3 You are Al - pha and O - me - ga, First and

tol Your pre - cious name; Yes - ter - day, to -
ris - en King of kings! “Bless - ing, hon - or,
last, the start and end, One who was, who

day, for - ev - er— Your great love re - mains the same!
glo - ry, pow - er . . .” All cre - a - tion ev - er sings!
is, and will be, Yet You deign to be our friend!

Long be - fore the world’s foun - da - tion You as
Glad - ly now we join that cho - rus, Awed by
Liv - ing Wa - ter, Your great mer - cy Is a

LORD, the great I AM, Planned to bear the
what our ran - som cost, Prais - ing You, our
bound - less res - er - voir, So that all whose

cross and save us, As God’s sac - ri - fi - cial Lamb.
great Good Shep - herd, Who would seek and save the lost.
souls are thirst - y Drink of You and thirst no more.

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DISMISSAL


PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING


Pastor: Gracious God, Your generosity to us knows no bounds. For all of the goodness You have lavished upon us—all that we need for daily life and so much more—we give You thanks. We especially thank You this day for the gift of Christ’s body and blood, in which we receive the forgiveness of our sins, life, and salvation. Help us to be generous people, wisely using what You have entrusted to us to serve others; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People:  Amen.

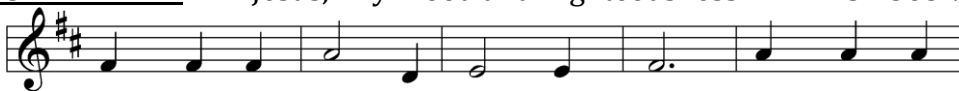
BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The † Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: 

 A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” LSB 563 v.1-2, 5-6



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my
6 Je - sus, be end - less praise to Thee, Whose bound - less



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
man - sion in the skies, This then shall be my
mer - cy hath for me, For me, and all Thy



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
on - ly plea: Je - sus hath lived and died for me.
hands have made, An ev - er - last - ing ran - som paid.

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in C Major”
 (“Jig Fugue”)

Dietrich Buxtehude