

And when he had spoken these things,
while they beheld, he was taken up;
and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Acts 1:9



Lutheran Church of the Covenant
Maple Heights, OH

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant welcomes you to worship!
Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the
God of new life together!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.
We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the
bold print and singing along with the hymns!

Portions marked with * are when we invite you to stand as you are
able to do so. There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a
basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local
ministry as well as the wider church.

A children’s table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you’ll
find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in
worship.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Lector	Allan Treichel
Reader	Peggy Smith
Crucifer	Adrian Bernardo
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

***Dismissal**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us!

We have been called,

we have been anointed,

we have been given a task.

So go out from this place

into the mission field that is the world.

We go carrying Good News to the world:

The time of the Lord's favor is now!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:

Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey,

Olive Evanofski, Bill Flick, Barbara Fossa, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz,

Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Linda

Johnson, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Bar-

bara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Rich Petro, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak,

Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma

Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele,

Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the

Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 9/21/2025:\$ 1359.00

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. September 28th, 2025

Rooted and Renewed: Sending

What makes a worship service? The basic pattern of ELCA worship—Gathering, Word, Meal, Sending—gives us a structure that allows flexibility while focusing on what the church holds in common. Each Sunday this month, we will focus on one of these four elements in order to explore and affirm what worship means to us.

This week we are focused on Sending. God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. With the blessing of God, we go to live as Christ's body, embodying the love that God has shown us in the Word and the Meal. Though we meet for a short time on Sunday mornings, our worship is never intended to be contained in the church walls—we carry a special gift with us into our everyday lives. Who will you encounter this week that could use a reminder that they are loved by God?

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

Too often, Lord God, we are hesitant in our proclamation; seeking safe and suitable opportunities to speak of our faith.

Too often, Lord God, we are half-hearted in our service; reluctant to stand out from the crowd or to attract criticism.

Too often, Lord God, we live as if dependent wholly on our own resources; relying on our perceived skills and limited insights.

Too often, Lord God, We forget your love and your power; forgetting that with you, all things are possible.

Gracious God, the magnitude of our sin is far outreached by the magnitude of your mercy. Forgive the poverty of our efforts and the frailty of our faith and open wide our hearts and minds to your living and abiding presence. We, your grateful people, turn to you in trust, asking through Christ Jesus that our sins may be forgiven by your abundant grace. Amen.

The Scripture says: “No one who believes in God shall be put to shame. For every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” By the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, You are forgiven and your freedom is granted. **Thanks be to God!**

*Sending Hymn: *Take My Life, That I May Be* ELW # 583

Refrain/Estribillo

To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,

da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas Last time
y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;

con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;

que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estribillo
pul - so de tu a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

Sending

*Blessing

Jesus said: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am now sending you" "Our God believes in you.

The busy world awaits your compassion.

God believes in us.

Sometimes you will give your best yet fail.

God believes in us.

At other times you will succeed in spite of your stumbling.

God believes in us.

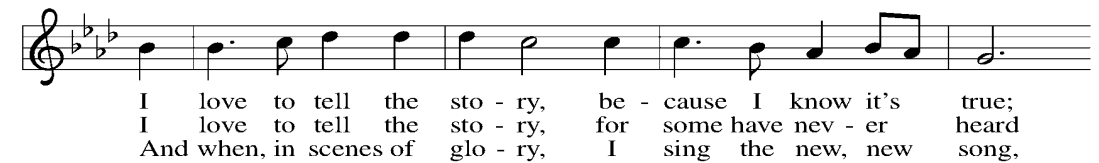
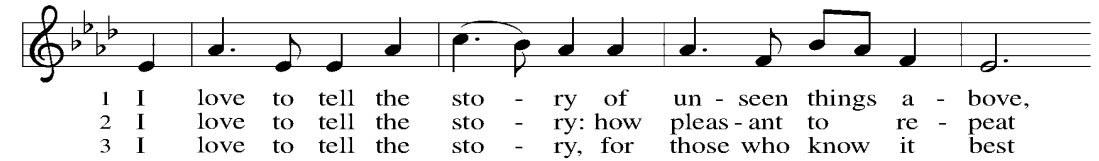
Go gladly, daring to succeed or fail to the glory of God.

God believes in us.

With Christ's own breath within us, we shall travel well.

The help of the saving Christ, the wisdom of the Living God, and the support of the loving Spirit, will be with you every step of the way, now and always. **Amen!**

*Gathering Song: *I Love To Tell The Story* ELW # 661



Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the commio of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

*Communion Hymn

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.

*Post Communion Prayer

Creator God, we give you thanks for all that we remember as we have shared this meal: your birth, your life, your death and resurrection. We give you thanks for the eternal presence of your Spirit with us. May this meal we have shared renew and inspire us to join more joyfully with you as you work for peace and justice in the world. **Amen.**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. 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.

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

***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**

***Hymn of Praise This is the Feast**

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
 who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and
 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

*Offertory Prayer

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward all those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The Great Thanksgiving

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.

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:

*Santus (next page)

Meal

Offering of Gifts and Tithes

*Offertory Hymn



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;

help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.

Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;

teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.

*Prayer of the Day

God of Unity, we praise and worship you. From the heights of the heavens you look down upon the earth to lift up the poor and needy. Fill this world with your love and mercy, and help us to glorify your name this day, from the rising of the sun to its setting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Word

Children's Moment

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."
⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"
⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I

said, “Here am I; send me!”

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

Psalm: Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

² **My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ **He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵ The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ **The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 10:11-17

¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the

We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for people in any need. Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

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

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.

Prayers of the People

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

We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace, **re-ceive our prayer.**

same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” ¹⁶ But not all have obeyed the good news, for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” ¹⁷ So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



***Gospel: Acts 1:3-9**

The holy gospel according to Acts. **Glory to you O Lord.**

³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* ELW #325

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;
I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;
all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual