



Lutheran Church of the Covenant
Maple Heights, OH

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

You may stay in your vehicle or setup a chair anywhere you like.
Speakers will be set up front by the worship leaders so that every-
one can hear and participate from their respective spots.
We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speak-
ing the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
You will not be asked to stand during the worship, so feel free to re-
main seated throughout.
An offering basket is placed up-front by the podium.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Leader	Jen Lasher-Dobush
Organist	Gerry Mass
Lector	Bert Zahn
Reader	Nancy Langtry
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. August 10th, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Creator God, this is the day that You have made!

This is the day you have called Holy:

Sabbath day, a rest day, a time-out,

out of the world and into the presence of God: a day for rejoicing.

Make us glad this morning in the House of the Lord.

Remove from us our distractions, our heart-worries,

our to-dos and should-haves and all the constant stress & strain.

And in its place, O God, give us more of You.

Here in your House, our hearts are filled with peace,

our mouths with laughter, our tongues with shouts of joy.

Fill us to brimming and overflowing with the joy of the Lord:

A good measure of God, pressed down,

shaken together and running over.

We are glad, yes, we are glad indeed,

to be together in the House of the Lord!

Gathering Song: Arise, Your Light Has Come WOV# 652



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
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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.**
You are treasured people of the Lord, **a people holy to the Lord our God.**
Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children. **Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**
Once does not live by bread alone, **but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.**

Dismissal

Since you have been raised with Christ
seek the things that are of God,
and go forth to live lives worthy of your calling.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:
Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, 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, Barbara Mingee,
Phyllis Nemeth, 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 8/3/2025:\$ 1597.00

Sending Hymn: *Blessed Be the God of Israel* WOV # 725



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease




God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.


Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune
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Hymn of Praise : *Let Us Tongues and Talents Employ*

WOV #754




1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you, **And also with you.**
Let us pray.
God of grace,
who are we that you should care for us? Yet you surprise us with
grace, infuse us with hope, and teach us a better way. Make us ever
more faithful, and ever more grateful, as we watch for the coming of
your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

Psalm: Psalm 33:12-22

¹² Happy is the nation whose God ¹ is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to ¹ be God's heritage!
¹³ **The LORD looks ¹ down from heaven,
and sees all ¹ humankind.**
¹⁴ God sits firmly en- ¹ throned and watches
all who dwell ¹ on the earth.
¹⁵ **God fashions ¹ all their hearts
and observes ¹ all their deeds.**
¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size ¹ of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by ¹ their great strength.
¹⁷ **The horse gives vain ¹ hope for victory;**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Blessing

May the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you this day and every day
until Christ comes to make all things well.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the church, the human family, and all the world.

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened. Guide the work of astronomers, naturalists, and all who teach us about the earth and the universe. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need. Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance. Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

despite its great strength it ^l cannot save.

¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear ^l you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your ^l steadfast love,

¹⁹ **to deliver their ^l lives from death,
and to keep them alive in ^l time of famine.**

²⁰ Our innermost being waits for ^l you, O LORD,
our helper ^l and our shield.

²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoic- ^l es in you,
for in your holy name we ^l put our trust.**

²² Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, ^l be upon us,
even as we place our ^l hope in you.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.


⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the

stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the sea-shore.”


¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



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

Music Interlude: *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring*

WOV #759



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God, our creator, you pour out blessing and cover us with gifts of love. Accept these offerings for the sake of your children, that they may proclaim your mercy and embody your grace. In Jesus' name we ask it. **Amen.**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;
pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away, behold, everything has become new!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation, therefore let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and let undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

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

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

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

[Jesus said:] ³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

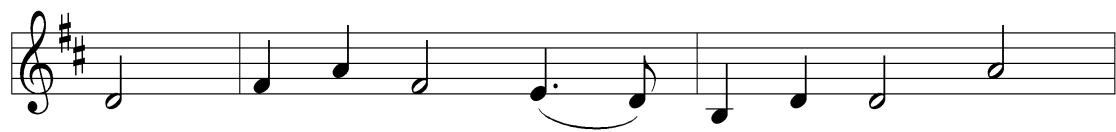
³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

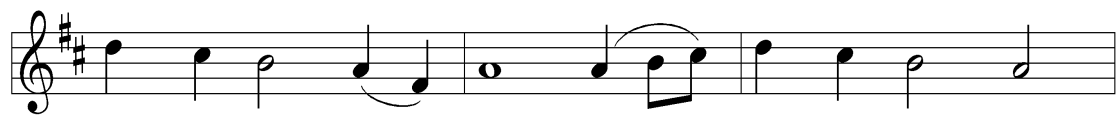
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

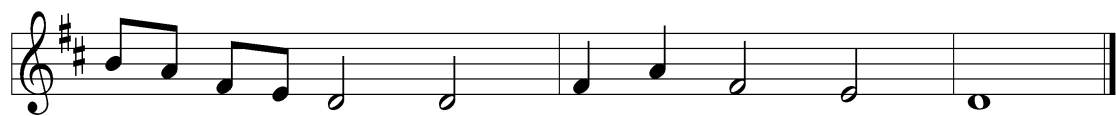
Hymn of the Day: *We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight*



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 That, when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found:
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of salvation.
We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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.