

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost- September 21, 2025 PAX

The Time Is Ripe

As We Gather

The Divine Service is unlike our other activities during the week—in the marketplace, our place of employment, or our school—where we struggle to be “the people of God” amid the temptations and confusing details of living in a world still disfigured by sin, tragedy, selfishness, and death. By our own fault, we daily fall short of our calling as Christians. We are reminded today of the judgment of God’s Law by the prophet Amos against our worry over money and our own needs that distract us from the often-greater needs of others and even our own true need of faith and reliance on God above all. Each day of the week, the demands of the Ten Commandments of God call us back to our need for forgiveness and God’s mercy, grace, help, and love. So, we gather here for Divine Service, that is, God attending to our real needs. We come to repent of our sin and failure, and to receive forgiveness and new life and hope. That forgiveness and hope comes solely from the God who “loved the world” so much “that He gave His only Son” to die for you (John 3:16). We do not have to wait and wonder until the Day of Judgment. By your Baptism into Christ, by His mighty and reliable Word of forgiveness spoken over and into you, and by your connection with the body and blood of your crucified and risen Lord Jesus, you are being delivered from all evil, redeemed, restored, and forgiven for everlasting life in the kingdom of God already here and now.

Pre-service: Zion 7th-8th Grade Handbells

“God So Loved”

*Verse: Come all you weary, come all you thirsty. Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water, come and thirst no more.*

*Verse: Come all you sinners, come find His mercy. Come to the table; He will satisfy.
Taste of His goodness, find what You're looking for.*

*Chorus: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.*

Bridge: Whoa, whoa. Whoa, whoa.

*Verse: Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the
cross.
Jesus is waiting there with open arms.*

*Chorus: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.*

*The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom,
for God so loved, God so loved the world.*

*Bridge: Praise God, praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love.
Praise God, praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love. His amazing love.*

*Chorus: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save.
For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.
The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom,
For God so loved, God so loved the world.*

*Tag: Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the
cross.
Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world.*

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us confess our sins in the light of God's holy Commandments.

Thus says the Lord: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

- C** Lord God, we confess to You that we often forget Your Word by allowing other concerns of daily living and our own desires take priority over Your ways of mercy and love. Forgive us, O Lord.

- P** Thus says the Lord: "You shall not murder."

- C** Lord God, we confess to You that we have hurt and harmed our neighbors, especially by our neglect of the needs of others. Forgive us, O Lord.

- P** Thus says the Lord: "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

- C** Lord God, we confess to You our rash words, harsh judgments, and false accusations against our neighbor, but even more our failure to defend and help those who have been wrongfully shamed, abused, or accused. Forgive us, O Lord.

- P** God, our Savior, desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For the sake of the one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, and by His command, I proclaim to you His Word: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Amos 8:4–7

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.”

Epistle

1 Timothy 2:1–15

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for 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, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For 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, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For 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.

¹[Jesus] 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. ²And 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.’ ³And 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. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷Then 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.’ ⁸The 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. ⁹And 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. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No 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.”

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And 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.”

Apostles’ Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Children's Message

“Raise a Hallelujah”

*Verse: I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbelief.
I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody.
I raise a hallelujah, Heaven comes to fight for me.*

*Chorus: I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm. Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my
praises roar.
Up from the ashes, hope will arise. Death is defeated, the King is alive.*

*Verse: I raise a hallelujah, with everything inside of me.
I raise a hallelujah, I will watch the the darkness flee.
I raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the mystery.
I raise a hallelujah, fear, you lost your hold on me.*

*Chorus: I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm. Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my
praises roar.
Up from the ashes, hope will arise. Death is defeated, the King is alive.*

*Bridge: Sing a little louder. (Sing a little louder.) Sing a little louder. (Sing a little louder.)
Sing a little louder. (Sing a little louder.) Sing a little louder. (Sing a little louder.)
Sing a little louder. (In the presence of my; enemies) Sing a little louder. (Louder than
the unbelief.)
Sing a little louder. (My weapon is a melody.) Sing a little louder. (Heaven comes to
fight for me.)
Sing a little louder. (In the presence of m;y enemies.) Sing a little louder. (Louder than
the unbelief.)
Sing a little louder. (My weapon is a melody.) Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to
fight for me.) Sing a little louder.*

*Chorus: I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm. Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my
praises roar.
Up from the ashes, hope will arise. Death is defeated, the King is alive.
I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm. Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my
praises roar.
Up from the ashes, hope will arise. Death is defeated, the King is alive.*

Tag: I raise a hallelujah. I raise a hallelujah. I raise a hallelujah. I raise a hallelujah.

Sermon

Pastor Leon Rosenthal

Offering

“How Can I Keep From Singing”

*Verse: There is an endless song, echoes in my soul, I hear the music ring.
And though the storms may come, I am holding on, to the rock I cling.*

*Chorus: How can I keep from singing Your praise? How can I ever say enough, how amazing is
Your love?
How can I keep from shouting Your name? I know I am loved by the King and it makes
my heart want to sing.*

*Verse: I will lift my eyes in the darkest night, for I know my Savior lives.
And I will walk with You knowing You see me through, and sing the songs You give.*

*Chorus: How can I keep from singing Your praise? How can I ever say enough, how amazing is
Your love?
How can I keep from shouting Your name? I know I am loved by the King and it makes my
heart want to sing.*

*Bridge: I can sing in the troubled times, sing when I win. I can sing when I lose my step and I
fall down again.
I can sing 'cause You pick me up, sing 'cause You're there. I can sing 'cause You hear me
Lord, when I call to You in prayer.
I can sing with my last breath, sing for I know that I'll sing with the angels, and the saints
around the throne.*

*Chorus: How can I keep from singing Your praise? How can I ever say enough, how amazing is
Your love?
How can I keep from shouting Your name? I know I am loved by the King and it makes
my heart;
I am loved by the King, and it makes my heart; I am loved by the King, and it makes my
heart want to sing.*

Prayers of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C Amen.

“How Great Thou Art”

*Verse: O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

*Chorus: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, "How great Thou art, how great Thou art."
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, "How great Thou art, how great Thou art. How great Thou art."*

*Verse: And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.*

*Chorus: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, "How great Thou art, how great Thou art."
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, "How great Thou art, how great Thou art. How great Thou art."
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, "How great Thou art, how great Thou art. How great Thou art, how great Thou art."
Then sings my soul, my Savior GOD, to Thee, "How great Thou art, how great Thou art. How great Thou art, how great Thou art."*

Zion 7th-8th Grade Handbells

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