

MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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11:00 AM—September 18, 2022—Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Traditional Worship Service

Setting 3—Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

PRELUDE

Solemn Melody

H. Walford Davies

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

God of mercy and forgiveness, **we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven ✙ and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God’s abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN 710

Let Streams of Living Justice

THAXTED

GREETING

ELW p. 138

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.

KYRIE

ELW p. 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 139

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ELW p. 142

Let us pray.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Amos 8:4-7

A reading from Amos.

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." ⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 113



¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

²**Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**

³From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.
⁴**The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens. R**
⁵Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,
⁶**but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth? R**
⁷The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,
⁸**enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people. R**
⁹The LORD makes the woman of a ¹ childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. ¹ Hallelujah! **R**

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

A reading from 1 Timothy.

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do,

now that my master is taking the position 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 dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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

SERMON

HYMN 655

Son of God, Eternal Savior

IN BABILONE

CREED

ELW p. 104

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 INTERCESSION

God of grace,
Hear our prayer.

PEACE

ELW p. 143

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hymn Tapestry

John Purifoy

HYMN 186

Create In Me A Clean Heart

Richard W. Hillert

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

ELW p. 144

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 814

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

TAKE ME AS I AM

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

ELW p. 145

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.

Hymn 814

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

TAKE ME AS I AM

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.

Hymn 814

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

TAKE ME AS I AM

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145

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

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

ELW p. 146

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

HYMN 793

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

HYMN 685

Take My Life, That I May Be

PATMOS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ELW p. 146

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

ELW p. 146

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN 669

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

FESTAL SONG

DISMISSAL

ELW p. 146

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata pour Grand Orgue

Gaston Béliier

Welcome to Mt. Tabor. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! If you are a visitor, please fill out and return the attendance card in your pew rack so we may have a record of your attendance. Our ushers and greeters will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our worship service. We hope that you will experience the presence of the Risen Christ today!

Altar Flowers. Today's Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Randy and Elizabeth Klapman, and Janet and Tommy Smith, in loving memory of Arlene Klapman on her birthday, September 23rd.

Bulletin Covers. Today's bulletin covers are given to the glory of God by Kim, Frazier, Cooper and Jensen Redmond, and Eric and Natalie Smith, in loving memory of Arlene Klapman on her birthday, September 23rd.

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Allen Shealy, Quinton Smoak, Rachel Smoak, Rachel Sullivan, Ashley Harris, Becky Rybicki, Judy Fisher, Diane Wise, Kaitlyn Liafsha, Amaya McCoy, Carter McCoy.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Melvin Manus, Paul Jacobs, Ronnie Hutto, Hannah Fogle.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Barbara Bradshaw, Sharon Mattern, Jackie Macaulay, David Mellichamp, Mary Hamson, Jeanie Jacobs, Sandra Baker, Betty Wise, Elmer Sundlie, Herman Bouknight, Pastor Jerry & Janice Livingston, Lucky Jones, Jennifer Brazell, Mary Hamson, Ann Callison, Bill Hunnicutt, Barbara Stillwell.

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Kathryn Cash, Shelby Cash, Blake Cash, Molly Gilbert, Bob & Shirley Spruill, Henry Gainey, Stacy Carns, Jordan Mellichamp, Charles Hite, Tyler Carter, Rev. Dr. Paul Harmon, Steve Collum, John Bundrick, Lori Gladiness.

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Andrew Hamson, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash.

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Eli McCracken, Marcus Hayes, Tristan Mullen, Cory Fabian, Hayden Henneman, Edwin Taylor, Patrick Taylor, Edwin Torres, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Patrick Morris, Ben Barron, Barry Duncan, Michael Barfield, David Mathews.

The Family Of:

Valerie Jan Brazell, Oscar Rabon, Jean Jones, William Florence, Bobby Lunn, Sylvia Marchant, Nancy Butler, Carroll Hutchinson.

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date by calling the church office with any names to be added or removed. Otherwise, names remaining on the prayer list for more than 2 months will be removed.

Today's Worship Assistants

Acolyte
Crucifer
Lector
Greeter
Communion Assistant
Worship Assistant Coordinator

Joey Sullivan
Tristan Spainhour
Docia Jones
Linda Spainhour
Docia Jones
Kendrick Kerr

Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor
Mr. Kevin Davis, Director of Music
Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation