 **12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

August 31, 2025

**AS WE GATHER** Life in First Class

We like to think of ourselves as worthy of honor and respect. We would like to live as deserving of first-class treatment. But in today’s Gospel, Jesus encourages us to live humbly among people around us, and He echoes the directives in Proverbs. Not only does He instruct us to humbly find the lowest seat, but when we do the inviting, He also cautions against expecting social payback. By ourselves, we would chafe under such limits, but our faith in the grace of God, coming to us through the sacrifice of Christ’s blood on our behalf, moves us to rely on His undeserved favor. That frees us to hear those directives as descriptions of the sort of living by which we may return praise and honor to our Savior—life in first class, indeed!

**HYMN** “God Himself Is Present” *LW* 206

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**INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father,

**C: who called us into being in this time and place;**

P: and of the ✠ Son,

**C: whose sacrifice for us has sanctified us to be His own;**

P: and of the Holy Spirit,

**C: whose gift of faith has freed us to walk humbly before the Lord. Amen.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 131*

P: O Lord,

*Men: my heart is not lifted up;*

*Women: my eyes are not raised too high;*

**All: I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.**

P: But I have calmed and quieted my soul,

*Men: like a weaned child with its mother,*

*Women: like a weaned child is my soul within me.*

**C: O Israel, hope in the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore!**

**HYMN** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” St. 1: *LW* 286

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**KYRIE**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, which we may reflect in humble living, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all who acknowledge Christ’s name, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who, coming from their various callings and stations in life, offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Sts. 2–4:  *LW* 286

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**SALUTATION**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.
O Lord of grace and mercy,

**C: teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride;**

P: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

***Scripture Lessons are printed on the yellow sheet***

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Proverbs 25:2–10* (Do not think of yourself more highly

 than anyone else.)

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 13:1–17* (Live the sanctified life for which Christ paid with His life.)

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Congregation will please stand*

**VERSE** *Luke 14:11*

P: Alleluia. Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,

**C: and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 14:1–14* (Jesus teaches true humility.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CREED** Nicene Creed *On the screen*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Son of God, Eternal Savior” *LW* 394

 Stacy Plays Hymns, YouTube

 Tune: Danish Folk Tune 8th century

 Text: Sommerset T.C. Lawry

**SERMON “**Living In First Class” Luke 14:1–14

“Everyone Who Exalts Himself Will Be Humbled, and He Who Humbles Himself Will Be Exalted.”

 I. Self-exaltation, the original sin, has broken everything.

 II. But the brokenness has been restored by Christ’s humiliation.

**OFFERING** “Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses” LSB 667

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Let us pray for ourselves and the Church around the world, … Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P: Having heard the Word of God and intending to receive our Lord’s body and blood, let us confess our sins to God and in the presence of one another.

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

P: When Jesus entered the house of the Pharisee and saw the man with dropsy who was left there as a trap, He saw a man who needed healing.

**C: We confess that in our pride we sometimes ignore the needs of others, we neglect to show hospitality to strangers, we forget those who are in prison, and we turn a blind eye to those who are mistreated.

Forgive us, heavenly Father, and teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility.**

P: In Jesus’ parable He chided His hearers about their seeking places of honor.

**C: We confess that in our self-centeredness, we sometimes consider ourselves worthy of honor, even while allowing personal desires to come between us and our Lord.

Forgive us, heavenly Father, and teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow, in true humility, the example of Your Son.**

P: Jesus warned against doing anything for others in expectation of being repaid.

**C: We confess that in our fallen human nature we sometimes forget that, because of our Savior’s sacrifice for us, the resurrection awaits us. We are free to love our neighbors as ourselves, relying on God’s grace for all we need.

Forgive us, heavenly Father, and teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow, in true humility, the example of Your Son.**

P: Jesus suffered in order to sanctify us through His own blood. 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.

**C: Amen. Let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God. Amen.**

**PREFACE**

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P: Through Your prophets and apostles You have revealed Your will to us. In the fullness of time You redeemed us, fallen creatures that we are. You kept Your promises by sending Your Son, who was humble and obedient in our place, even sacrificing Himself outside the walls of Jerusalem so that we might be Your sanctified people. Trusting in Your grace for His sake, we look forward to the joys of heaven.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD’S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

**PAX DOMINI**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“Jesus Grant Thy Balm and Healing” LW 95 vs 1-2

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**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

P: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we give thanks for the assurance of sins forgiven and ask that Your Holy Spirit would strengthen us to resist the temptations of our self-centeredness that we strive each day to give You thanks and praise in thought, word, and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

P: The blessing of almighty God, the Father,

**C: who called us into being in this time and place;**

P: the ✠ Son,

**C: whose sacrifice for us has sanctified us to be His own;**

P: and the Holy Spirit,

**C: whose gift of faith has freed us to walk humbly before the Lord;**

P: be upon you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN** “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” *LW* 381

 Every Voice A Song CD collection

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Let us pray for ourselves and the Church around the world, for our nation and the nations around the globe, and for people, both those dear and those unknown to us, in their various needs.

Heavenly Father, instill in the leaders of this and every nation a sense of humble service to replace any desire for power and prestige. Grant them wisdom and courage so that the poor may find dignity, the imprisoned may live in safety, and those living on the fringes of society may nevertheless be provided justice. Then enable them to reach across their borders so that peace and security may be realized and war and terror become things of the past. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord of the Church, strengthen, guide, and protect clergy and lay leaders around the world. Provide peace and security among democracies and kingdoms alike so that Your Word may be preached freely. Open hearts and minds to the Spirit’s invitation to come to faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Holy Spirit, move us to connect our faith with our actions, providing hospitality to strangers, visiting those in prison, speaking up for those who are mistreated, upholding the marital estate, and rejecting immorality in its various forms. Strengthen us to be content with what we have, living each day in thanks for Your many gifts. Help us to follow the example of our Savior in His humility and love. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious God, hear our prayers for those who are ill, in financial difficulty, alone, or grieving, [*including* . . .]. Surround them with caring people in whom You have placed gifts of healing and compassion. Bring about the healing, relief, companionship, and solace they so desperately need. Use us to bring Your love to them in every opportunity. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, as You came into the homes of all who invited You, be with us now in this Holy Meal. Grant that we may receive Your body and blood in sure faith until we celebrate with You and the saints who have gone before us at the feast that has no end. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**