

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 10, 2023



<https://sites.psu.edu/leadership/wp-content/uploads/sites/8069/2013/03/Group-of-people-with-different-occupations.jpg>

PRESERVICE MUSIC "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" (arr. Larson) & "Here I Am, Lord" (arr. Schrader)

A Reminder: Please be respectful to our brothers and sisters who use the time prior to worship for quiet meditation on God's Word. - Thank you

864 SHEPHERD OF TENDER YOUTH

- 1 Shepherd of tender youth, Guiding in love and truth
Through devious ways; Christ, our triumphant king,
We come Your name to sing And here our children bring
To join Your praise.
- 2 You are the holy Lord, O all-subduing Word,
Healer of strife. Yourself You did abase
That from sin's deep disgrace You so might save our race
And give us life.
- 3 You are the great High Priest; You have prepared the feast
Of holy love; And in our mortal pain
None calls on You in vain; Our plea do not disdain;
Help from above.
- 4 O ever be our guide, Our shepherd, and our pride,
Our staff and song. Jesus, O Christ of God,
By Your enduring Word Lead us where You have trod;
Make our faith strong.
- 5 So now, and till we die, Sound we Your praises high
And joyful sing: Infants and all the throng,
Who to the Church belong, Unite to swell the song
To Christ, our king!

Text: attr. Clement of Alexandria, c. 170–c. 220; tr. Henry M. Dexter, 1821–90, alt.

Text: Public domain

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH

I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. *Palm 139:14*

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 92:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep! It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

HYMN OF THE MONTH - 819 SING PRAISE TO GOD, THE HIGHEST GOOD *sts. 1, 3, 5*

This hymn of praise begins by proclaiming who God is and the marvelous works He has done for us. God fully meets our need of salvation and forgiveness. God hears our cries and gives us peace. We respond by giving God all praise and glory!

- 1 Sing praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.
With healing balm our souls He fills And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!
- 3 We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness And came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord, Who is by one and all adored:
To God all praise and glory!
- 5 All who confess Christ's holy name, Give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne, For God is God, and He alone:
To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.

Text: Public domain

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray. O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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

Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

DUET 10 am “Reckless Love” (*Cory Asbury*)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE & BACKPACK BLESSING

845 WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL

- 1 Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love By love are we thus bound.
- 2 With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love Him in return.
- 3 Forgive we now each other’s faults As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well In Christian holiness.
- 4 Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease;
Be God’s the glory that we seek; Be ours His holy peace.
- 5 Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined We are in Him made one.
- 6 For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior’s name;
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.

Text: © 1960 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005575

SERMON “Who is the Greatest?” Matthew 18:1-20

CREED Early Service – Apostles’ Creed Late Service – Nicene Creed
(Creed can be found in the back of the hymnal and on the screens)

COMMISSIONING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition, please respond with the following:

P Let us pray to the Lord,

G Lord, have mercy.

At the end of the prayer:

G Amen.

Early service please continue with the Lord’s Prayer & Benediction

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 195

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 196

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

PAX DOMINI

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 198

C **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

For guests and visitors, we invite you to please read our statement regarding the Lord's Supper on the inside cover of your bulletin.

SOLO "In Remembrance of Me"

619 THY BODY, GIVEN FOR ME, O SAVIOR

1 Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior, Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever, By them my hungry soul is fed. **Refrain**

Refrain Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

2 With Thee, Lord, I am now united; I live in Thee and Thou in me.
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted It finds its only joy in Thee. **Refrain**

3 Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise. **Refrain**

4 Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer;
For He who is of death the master With aid and comfort e'er is near. **Refrain**

5 My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessèd, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. **Refrain**

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

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611 CHIEF OF SINNERS THOUGH I BE

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
- 3 Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Text: Public domain

725 CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Text: Public domain

THANKSGIVING

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth forever.

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You

and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

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.

826 HARK, THE VOICE OF JESUS CRYING

- 1 Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, “Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting— Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me”?
- 2 If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the judgment’s dread alarms,
You can lead the little children To the Savior’s waiting arms.
- 3 If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion’s wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off’ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what God commands;
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet’s hands.
- 4 Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,”
While the multitudes are dying And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth, “Here am I, send me, send me!”

Text (sts. 1–2, 4): Daniel March, 1816–1909, alt.; (st. 3): unknown, alt.

Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE “Lord of the Dance” (arr. Behnke)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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