

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

08-31-2025

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for our sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN [ELW#631 – “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”](#)

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C **And also with you.**



A Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.

C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, you offer so much more than our own limited plans envision. Strengthen our hearts and minds to follow Jesus. When we betray like Judas, deny like Peter, and scatter like the disciples, forgive our frailties. Bring us the promise of resurrection and new life in you. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen

PSALM 41

- L** ¹Happy are they who regard the poor!
The Lord will deliver them in the time of trouble.
- C** ²**The Lord protects and revives them, those blessed in the land,
and does not hand them over to the power of their enemies.**
- L** ³The Lord sustains them on their sickbed
and ministers to them in their illness.
- C** ⁴**I said, "Lord, be merciful to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against you."**
- L** ⁵My enemies are saying wicked things about me,
asking when I will die, and my name perish.
- C** ⁶**Even if they come to see me, they speak empty words;
their heart collects false rumors; they go outside and spread them.**
- L** ⁷All my enemies whisper together about me
and devise evil against me.
- C** ⁸**"A deadly thing," they say, "has fastened on him;
he has taken to his bed and will never get up again."**
- L** ⁹Even my best friend, whom I trusted, who broke bread with me,
has violently turned against me.
- C** ¹⁰**But you, O Lord, be merciful to me and raise me up,
and I shall repay them.**
- L** ¹¹By this I know you are pleased with me:
that my enemy does not triumph over me.
- C** ¹²**In my integrity you hold me fast,
and shall set me before your face forever.**
- L** ¹³Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
from age to age. Amen. Amen.

ACTS 1:16-26

- L** A reading from Acts: ¹⁶"Brothers and sisters, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus, ¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all

his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰"For it is written in the book of Psalms,

'Let his house become desolate,
and let there be no one to live in it';

and

'Let another take his position of overseer.'

²¹"So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#757 – “All My Hope on God is Founded”](#)

SERMON: [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

L Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

L For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. We pray for Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L For whom or what else shall we pray?

- *For an end to war and conflict, especially in Gaza, Thailand, Cambodia, Colombia, South Sudan, Myanmar, Ukraine, and Ethiopia...*
- *For all victims of gun violence, especially in Minneapolis, MN...*
- *For business owners and leaders, facing increased costs and challenges...*
- *For victims of flooding and landslides in Vietnam and Thailand...*
- *For police officers and military personnel...*

- *For immigrants coming to the US to escape violence in their countries of origin...*
- *For those without a home or secure housing and those who serve them...*
- *For those seeking meaningful work and all who are unemployed, underemployed, or retired...*
- *For students transitioning to college and for the staff and faculty who care for them in these spaces, especially at our ELCA Colleges and Universities...*

L For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

C **Amen**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

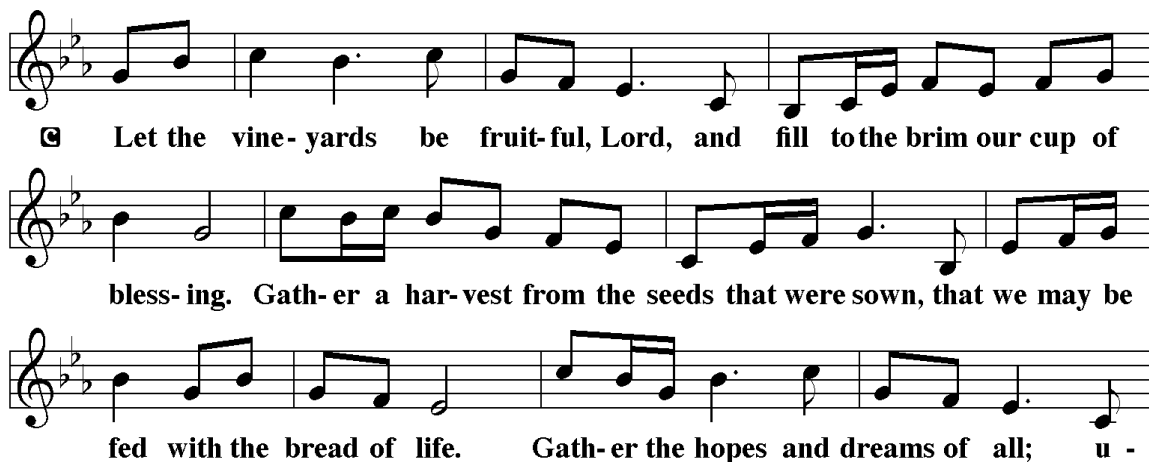
C **And also with you.**

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

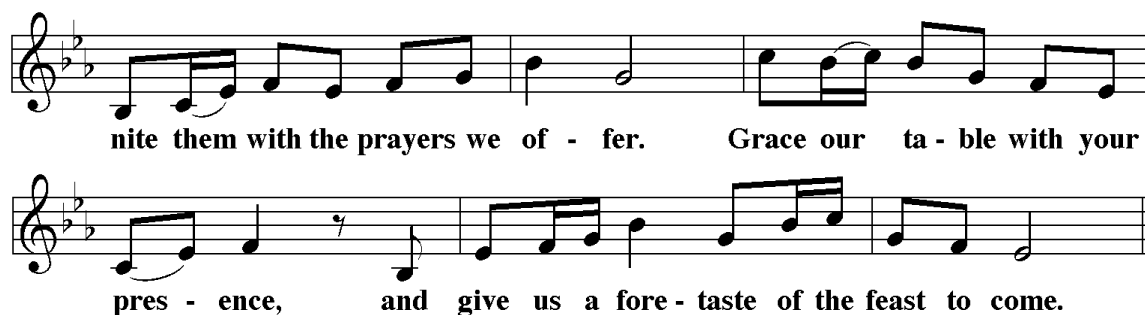
C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

OFFERING*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.



G Let the vine- yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless- ing. Gath- er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



C Amen

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN: [ELW#731 – “Earth and All Stars”](#)

P Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, September 20, 3 pm – 6 pm, Good Bye to Crew 851 Farewell Party
- Sunday, September 21 during 9:30 am service - recognition and thanksgiving for the partnership between Venture Crew 851 and Epiphany Lutheran.
- Sunday, September 21 after 9:30 am service - Fall Picnic

Upcoming Worship

Date	Theme	Text	Leader(s)
Sept 7	Creation	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Heidi and Bob
Sept 14	Binding of Isaac	Genesis 22.1-14	Julie and Dave
Sept 21	Jacob' Dream	Genesis 28.10-19a	Ron
Sept 28	God's Name is Revealed	Exodus 3.1-15	Monica
Oct 5	God Provides Manna	Exodus 16.2-15	Heidi and Bob
Oct 12	God Calls Samuel	1 Samuel 3.1-20	Julie and Dave

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