

Jacob's Dream

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

09-21-2025

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#858 – “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”](#)

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C **And also with you.**



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Gracious God, you revealed yourself to Jacob in his wandering, showing mercy even as he fled in fear and guilt. Be present to us in our journeys, that trusting your

promises we may return to you with grateful hearts, and offer you the first fruits of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Please be seated.

PSALM 139:1-12; 23-24

L ¹Lord, you have searched me out; O Lord, you have known me.

C ²**You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

L ³You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

C ⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

L ⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

C ⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

L ⁷Where can I go then from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

C ⁸**If I climb up to heaven, you are there;**

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

L ⁹If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

C ¹⁰**even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.**

L ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,"

C ¹²**darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;**

darkness and light to you are both alike.

L ²³Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my restless thoughts.

C ²⁴**Look well whether there be any wickedness in me**

and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

GENESIS 28:10-19a

L A reading from Genesis: ¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on

which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place - and I did not know it!" ¹⁷And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#796 – “How Firm a Foundation”](#)

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

Pastor Greg’s Old Testament “Context-O-Meter”

WE ARE HERE	Epoch	Books
	Creation and Early Humanity	Genesis (1–11)
	The Patriarchs and the Covenant	Genesis (12–50)
	Egypt, Exodus, and the Wilderness	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
	Conquest and Settlement	Joshua, Judges (early parts), and Ruth
	Judges	Judges, 1 Samuel (early chapters)
	United Kingdom	1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings (1–11), 1 and 2 Chronicles (1–9)
	Divided Kingdom of Israel and Judah	1 Kings (12–22), 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles (10–36), various prophets (Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Micah, etc.)
	Exile of Israel, Exile of Judah	2 Kings (end), 2 Chronicles (end), Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Lamentations, Obadiah
	Return from Exile and Restoration	Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

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 Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

L Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

L Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

L Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. 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. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

L God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

L For whom or what else shall we pray?

- *For an end to war and conflict, especially in Gaza, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Ukraine.*
- *For all victims of gun violence, especially in Minneapolis, MN.*
- *For government transitions in Nepal and Malawi.*
- *For the plight of all migrants who seek safety, security, and opportunity.*
- *For all who live under oppression, threat, and fear.*
- *For Jewish neighbors preparing for Rosh Hashanah, and for all gifts of newness, self-reflection, and repentance.*

L Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

L We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

P At this time, we pause to celebrate and give thanks for Venturing Crew 851.

Epiphany Recognition of Venture Crew 851: ([Audio Link](#))

P Let us pray. God of all journeys, we give you thanks for Venturing Crew 851. For the friendships formed, the challenges met, the skills learned, and the service offered, we are grateful. Though this crew closes, the spirit of adventure continues in each of us as we walk new paths. Bless every participant and advisor, past and present, and keep alive in them the courage, curiosity, and compassion that Crew 851. Through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Please stand as you are able.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

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

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.

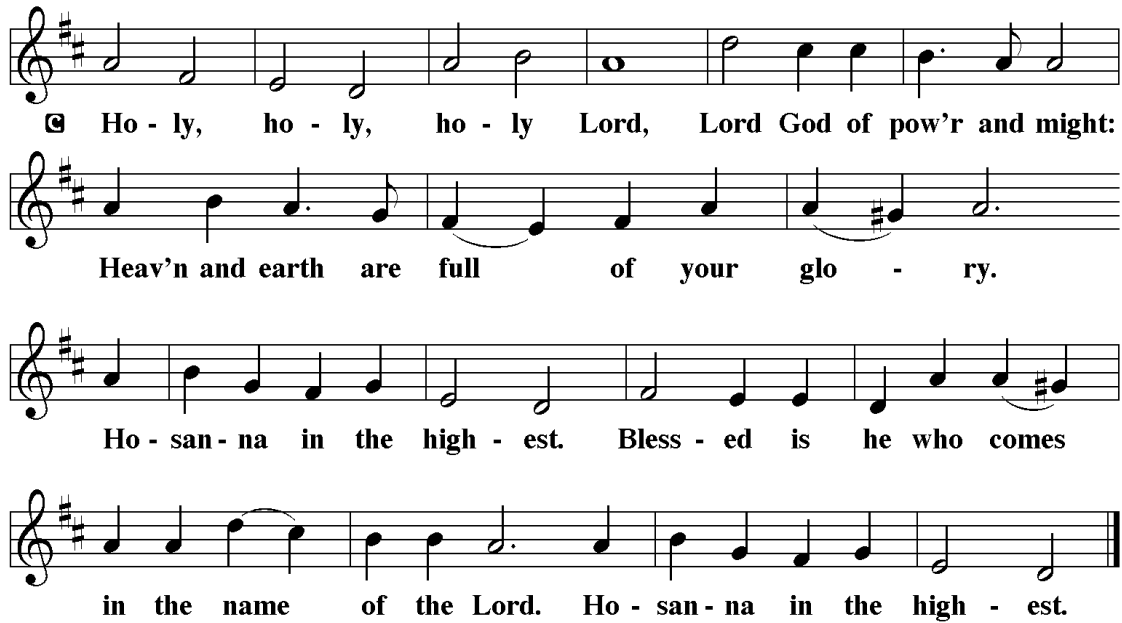
G Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

P Let us pray. Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
G It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:



P Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

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**

P The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table is now ready.

C Thanks be to God.

After all have communed, the following is sung:



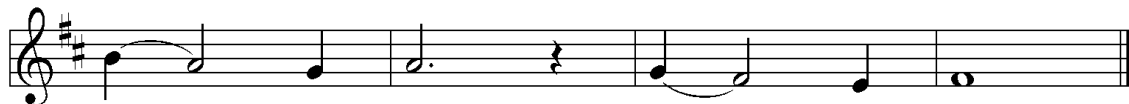
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please stand, as you are able.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

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#502 – “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”](#)

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

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB173567. New
Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.
All rights reserved.

