

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

09/06/2026

Greg Fetzer, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

P In the name of the Father, and of the $\mp$ 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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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#461 "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"](#)

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

HYMN OF PRAISE: [ELW#830 "How Marvelous God's Greatness"](#)

1. How marvelous God's greatness, how glorious God's might!
To this the world bears witness in wonders day and night:
In form of flow'r and snowflake, in morn's resplendent birth,
In afterglow at evening, in sky and sea and earth.
2. Each tiny flow'ret whispers the great life-giver's name;
the mighty mountain masses his majesty proclaim;
the valleys deep are hymning God's shelter for this own;
the snow-capped peaks are pointing to God's almighty throne.
3. The ocean's vast abysses in one grand psalm record
the deep mysterious counsels and mercies of the Lord;
the icy waves of winter are thund'ring on the strand;
and grief's chill stream is guided by God's all-gracious hand.
4. The starry hosts are singing through all the light-strewn sky
of God's majestic temple and palace courts on high;
when in these outer chambers such glory gilds the night,
oh, what transcendent brightness is God's eternal light!

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord God,
C **enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7-11

L A reading from Ezekiel: ⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel 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 ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40

L ³³Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

C ³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

L ³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

C ³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

L ³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

C ³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

L ³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

C ⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING Romans 13:8-14

L A reading from Romans: ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another, 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.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

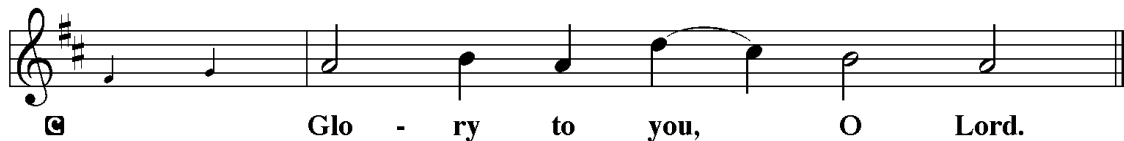
Please stand, as you are able.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 18:15-20

L The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

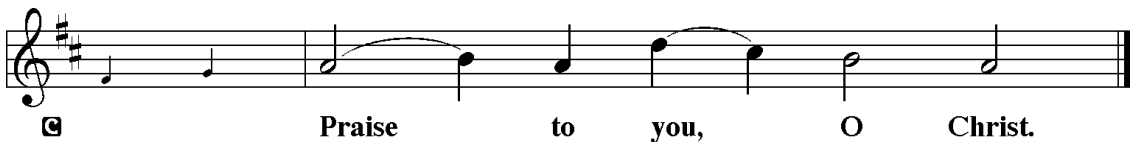


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

L [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point

out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#603 “God, When Human Hearts Are Broken”](#)

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

Please stand, as you are able.

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** Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

- L** Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- L** Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- L** Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- L** Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. We pray for Barbara Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, Rhina Chroniger, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, John McCarthy, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- L** Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- L** For whom or what else shall we pray?

- *For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Venezuela...*

- *For victims of storms and natural disasters, especially in Nepal, Indiana, Arizona, New York,*

and Texas; and for all facing extreme temperatures...

- For urgency in addressing the perils of climate change...

- For victims of gun violence, especially in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Tuscon, Arizona...

- For migrants who died at sea near the Canary Islands...

- For immigrants and international travelers and workers...

- For election officials in the United States and around the world...

- For those who work, those who seek employment, and those who are retired...

L Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C **Amen**

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.



☞ 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

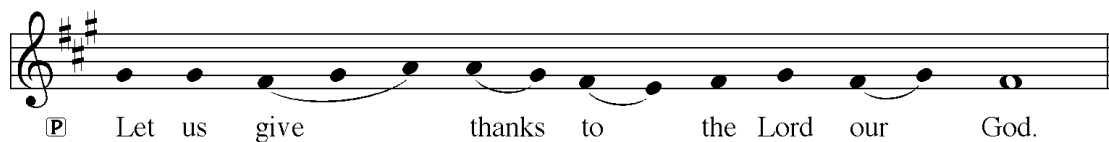
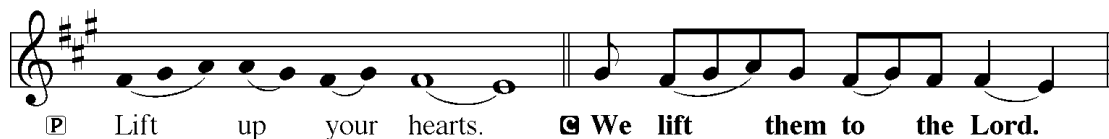


fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -

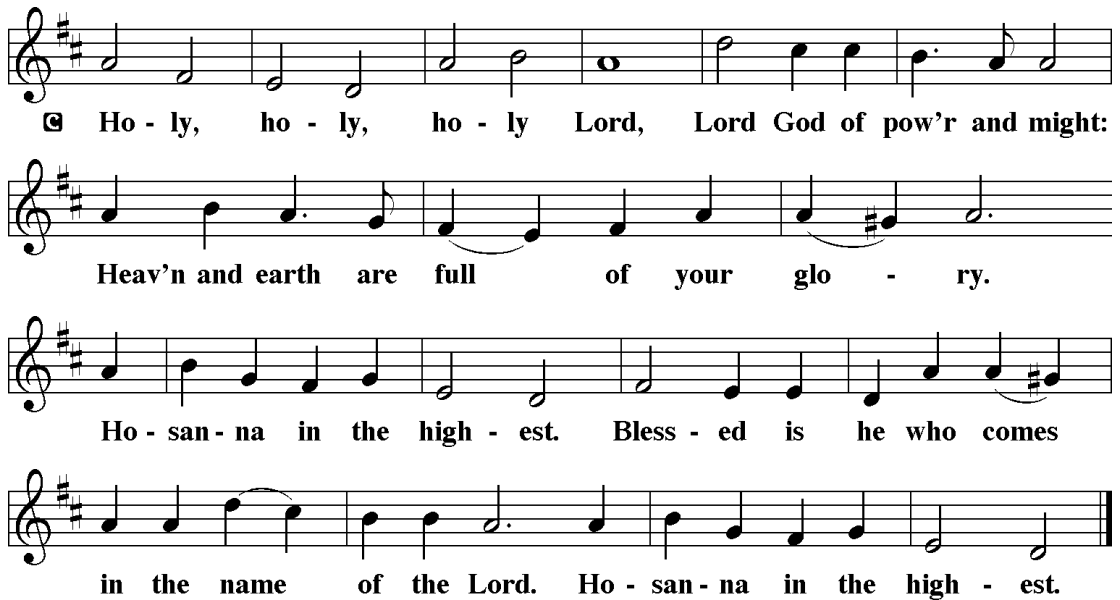


P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C 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. Amen



The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:



P Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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 - jice 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,

C 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. 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. Love and serve God and neighbor.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Upcoming Events

- Sunday, Sep 13, Church Picnic following worship

READER SCHEDULE

First Sunday	Heidi and Bob
Second Sunday	Julie and Dave
Third Sunday	Ron
Fourth & Fifth Sunday	Greg

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