

August 31, 2025

12th Sunday after Pentecost



Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

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Pastor Kimberly Belken

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Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.
(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Merciful God,

**C you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life. Amen.**

P You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **C Amen.**

Gathering Song: O God Beyond All Praising (ELW 880)

O God beyond All Praising



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
 2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
 its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
 but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown—
 and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
 though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:
 we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
 to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
 and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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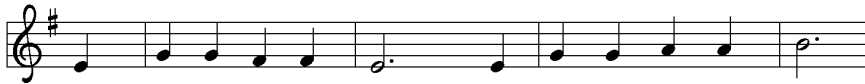
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Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Kyrie



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Canticle of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

P O God

C **you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble.
Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a}for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

P Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms: Psalm 112

P Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in God's commandments!

C **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

P Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

C **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

P It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

C **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

P They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

C **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

P They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness

stands fast forever;

they will hold up their head with honor.

**C The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth
and pine away;**

the desires of the wicked will perish.

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8 , 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

P Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Luke 14:1,7-14

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame,

and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

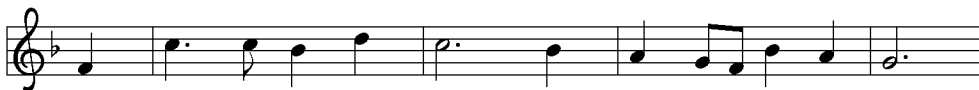
P The Gospel of the Lord
C Praise to you O, Christ

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power (ELW 651)*

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
- 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
- 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
- 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
- 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|--|

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Prayers of Intercession

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

(A brief silence.)

P 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.**

P 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.**

P 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.**

P 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 (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
C Your mercy is great.

P 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 (*specific ministries may be named*). Hear us, O God.
C Your mercy is great.

- P** 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.**
- C** **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.**
- Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

- P** The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**

Offering: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (ELW 184)

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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
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Offering Prayer

P Creator God,

C in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P 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.

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Holy Communion

Communion Song:



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Post Communion Blessing

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

C Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P Mothering God,

C you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessing

P The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit bless you and give you peace.

C Amen

Sending Song: O Christ the Same (WOV 778)

O Christ the Same



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied;
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en;
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
 we bring our thanks for this pres - ent hour.
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
 Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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Dismissal

P Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C **Thanks be to God**

Announcements

- **Rally Sunday:** Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 7 at 9:30 am
- **Joint Choir:** Come and make a joyful noise! We are looking for singers for a 1 time performance with a joint choir from Immanuel Church for worship on October 5. We will be celebrating Pastor Kim and Pastor Lou Hoyer's ordination anniversaries that day. The first practice is Sunday, September 7th at 8:15am
- **First Communion:** All young people who have not yet received their first communion are invited to attend this year's first communion class on Saturday September 6th from 10am-noon. We will then celebrate their first communion in worship on Sunday September 7th. Please talk to Pastor Kimberly if you are interested or have any questions.
- **Outdoor Worship:** On Sunday, Sept. 14th we will not be having a Sunday morning worship service. Instead, we will gather for an informal outdoor worship service and cook-out at 5pm that evening. Please bring a lawn chair and a side dish to share! Hotdogs and Hamburgers will be provided. This would be a great event to invite a friend or neighbor to!
- **Online Giving:** Did you know you can set up online giving so you never have to worry about having to catch up on your giving when you have been away? You can visit the church website to sign up. The website also has a text to give option. If you need help signing up, please talk to Martha or Doug Stetzel.
- **Church Directory Photos:** We are working to update our directory on the church app and still need photos from about 25 individuals and/or families. If you did not have your picture taken when Claire was here at the end of April and beginning of May, then you are one we need a picture from. You can ask Pastor or a council member to take a pic for you on a Sunday that we can upload or you can email a picture that you have to Pastor at mtolivetlutheran@gmail.com. Thanks for helping us to get this project complete!
- **Office Hours:** Pastor Kimberly is in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays. Thursdays she will be splitting her time between Immanuel and Mt. Olivet, so if you would like to see her on that day, please call ahead so she can be sure to be in town. You can call the church number (515) 465- 5298 and it will ring to Pastor's cell phone if she is not in the office.