

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

On September 7 during worship, we will celebrate the volunteers who have helped at the Soup Kitchen over the years.

Sunday School will resume next Sunday following worship.

On September 14, during coffee we will celebrate **Everybody's Birthday**. If you'd like to provide a cake for one of the months, please sign up in our Place of Welcome.

Throughout September, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd will join congregations across Canada in **CLWR's Friends of Creation project**. Over four Sundays, we'll reflect on God's call to steward the earth by looking at how climate intersects with food, water, peace, and local economies around Lake Chad, at the frontlines of climate change. Together, we'll reflect, pray, and have a chance to take action to help restore land and livelihoods in one of the world's most vulnerable regions. Please check out the information in your September newsletter on how we are answering God's call to be friends of creation.

INTRODUCTION

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

Let us take a moment to center our hearts and minds.

GATHERING SONG "God Welcomes All" ACS 978 – start a cappella and add instruments

The image shows a musical score for a cappella song. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system of music has the lyrics "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;" and the second system has the lyrics "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with many chords and some melodic lines.

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapt. Psalm 90)

God of our beginning,
From generation to generation, you have been our dwelling place –
our home where grace abounds.

Before the mountains were born, before the earth was formed –
You are. Timeless and Eternal.

We first dwelled with you as divine thought, then as children,
born of love and breathed into fertile earth.

We, your children, bear your image.

Now, here, we gather in praise and remembrance of the First Love.
Humbled in the expanse of your sovereignty, we seek to begin anew.

Pause for reflection

In the silence of our understanding, when words fail and hearts yearn to be made new,
we hear you calling from the kingdom of heaven within, "My children. Return."

"Return & Renewal (Confession & Forgiveness)" – LotB

Worship Leader (spoken slowly over the music)

Re - turn to the Lord your God who is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to ang - er and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Cantor

God of all mercy and consolation,
your love is steadfast. Your love is patient.
God of our near and far,
you meet us where we are -
each peak and valley of our lives.

Restore us by your Spirit's power.
Open our eyes to you, our source of life.
Come sanctify our hearts and minds.
May we walk your pathways to the glory of your name!

All

As in the Garden of our Unknowing,
We found division in worldly wisdom.
Long have we wandered from
the wisdom of your love -
Help us to find our way back home.

Forgive us, Lord, as we forgive,
heeding the call to love as you have loved.
Let Mercy reign in ev'ry heart.
May the Way of Christ be the pattern of our lives.

Down through the ages, your love is changeless-
across the nations, each generation.
You are the cleansing rain.
you wash away our pain,
and by your grace we have been saved.

*Return to the Lord your God
who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding
in steadfast love...*

Return & Renewal

Confession & Forgiveness

Ben & Caitlin Johnston-Urey

God of all mer - cy and con - sol - a - tion, your love is stead - fast.
As in the Gar - den of our un - know - ing, we've found div - is - ion.

Your love is pat - ient. God of our near and far, you meet us where we are -
in world - ly wis - dom. Long have we wand - ered from the wis - dom of your love

Each peak and val - ley of our lives. Re - store us by
Help us to find our way back home. For - give us, Lord,

your Spir - it's power. Op - en our eyes to you, our source of
as we for - give, heed - ing the call to love as you have

life. Come sanc - ti - fy our hearts and minds.
loved. Let Mer - cy reign in ev' - ry heart.

May we walk your path - ways to the glor - y of your name!
May the Way of Christ be the pat - tern of our lives.

Down through the age - s your love is change - less, a - cross the na tions,

each gen - er - a - tion. You are the cleans - ing rain. You wash a - way our pain,

and by your grace we have been saved.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God of our Unending,
your love is as boundless as the heavens.
Your grace is a river that flows without ceasing.
In Jesus, you weave yourself into the fabric of our humanity-
Divine Mercy made manifest in our own time.

Therefore, Beloved, hear the good news:
In love you were made, and to love you shall return.
In the name of †Jesus Christ every distance is bridged,
Every division is healed, and every heart is made whole.
May Christ be your heart's everlasting desire.
May the Words of Life be ever upon your lips! **Amen.**

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Our Lord is with you.
And also with you.

It is our delight to pray. O God, 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.**

The congregation is invited to sit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 *Two readers*

One *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. Our reading begins with Hebrews 13:1.*

Two Let mutual affection continue.

One Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Two 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.

One 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.

Two 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."

One So we can say with confidence,
Two "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

One Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you;
consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Two Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

One Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God,
that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

Two Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

a brief pause

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "The Living Word" LotB

In the beginning was the Word,
The Living Word of God,
The Light of Life Unending.

You shine in us as ancient starlight,
in our Book of Memories and Future Dreams.

Sing we halle, hallelu!
You are the Word of Life Eternal.
Holy Wisdom, found within!
You speak to us and we remember:

"I am the Book no one can close,
The Story of our time, before all time, together.

I am the Voice that never falters,
I, the Echo of Beyond.
I am the Way, the Truth, the Life,
the Living Word."

In the Beg - in - ning was the Word, the Liv - ing Word of God, the

Light of Life Un - end - ing. You shine in us as an - cient

star - light, in our Book of Mem - o - ries and Fu - ture Dreams.

Sing we hal - le, hal - le - lu! _____
Lord, to whom shall we go? _____

You are the Word of Life E - ter - nal. _____ Ho - ly Wis - dom,

found with - in! _____ You speak to us and we re - mem - ber: _____

I am the Book no one can close, the Sto - ry of our time, be -

fore all time, to - geth - er. I am the Voice that ne - ver

fal - ters, I, the Ech - o of Be - yond. I am the Way, the

Truth, the Life, the Liv - ing Word. _____

The gospel reading and sermon for today have been prepared and shared by Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, National Bishop-elect.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1,7-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "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, 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. 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. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

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. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."


The gospel of our risen Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "As We Gather at Your Table" ELW 522 – use binder version – *piano, bass*

Unison



1. As we gath - er at your Ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your Word,
 2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sac - red sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

Holy God, we pray for the leaders of the church. 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. We continue to pray for Bishop Susan Johnson as she retires and for bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer and Cathy as they move to Winnipeg. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the well-being of creation. 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. Send rain to those places ravaged by fire and drought. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labour Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the lowly and those who are ignored. 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 Myrtle, Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Alice, Kyra, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda, Shirley, Derek, Hugh and Ally, Jim, Donna, Helga, Margaret and Clayton, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Heather and Alan and those we name silently now . . . [silence]. May they be reassured of your love for them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the hospitality ministries of this congregation. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and may all experience your presence in worship. We give thanks for and ask you to bless the Worship and Arts Committee as they work to see that we are nourished and fed by your Spirit when we come together. Be near to Cheryl Berg and Kate Black. Hold Pastor Joel, Vanesa, and Hans in your care, that together we may view this time of waiting and anticipation as a gift from You. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for teachers and educators as they begin another school year. Fill them with love for their students and with joy in their calling. We pray for students of all ages, that they may see the world and others through your eyes, and as they learn, be filled with wonder and awe and all that you've created. Give them joy in learning and in developing the gifts that you have given. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

PEACE

May peace be within, and ever before you.

And also with you.

WE SHARE THE MEAL

We sing as we set our table.

"Let Us Go Now to the Banquet" ELW 523 (refrain – all, v 1 solo, v 2-3 all)

Refrain / Estribillo



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to yu - na mi - sión.
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

Refrain / Estribillo



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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" Journey to Hope – sing twice

♩ = 60 4

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are You God.

9

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are You God,

13

ho - ly are You God.

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.

Gathered into one by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

***Together let us take and eat, the body of Christ given for you
Together let us take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you***

SONG VIDEO "Behold the Lamb of God" from LOTB

COMMUNION SONGS

"Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal" ELW 464



- 1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
- 2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
- 3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
- 4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
 Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
 for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
 Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

"By Your Hand You Feed Your People" ELW 469



- 1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
- 2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
- 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
 Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
 In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: Pour out your Spirit on all who share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SUNG BENEDICTION: Hope Everlasting (Romans 15:13)

Oh, where do we go from here?
Whom do we follow, which path do we take?
We'll follow wherever You lead.
We'll follow Your heart's desire,
And seek to be Your peace for a world in need.

Now, may the God of all hope
fill you with joy and peace, by faith,
And may your hope everlasting,
by the power of the Spirit, abound!
(repeat this section twice more)

Oh, where do we go from here?

Whom do we fol - low, which path do we take?

We'll fol - low where - ev - er you lead. We'll

fol - low your heart's de - sire, and seek to be your

peace for a world in need.

opt. round

Now, may the God of all hope fill you with joy and

peace by faith, and may your hope ev - er - last - ing,

by the pow'r of the Spi - rit, a - bound!

SENDING

God is. Love does.

In the footsteps of grace, we follow!

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