

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2017

WELCOME

We welcome you in the name of Christ. **We love welcoming guests/visitors** and encourage you to complete one of the blue cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher. We have a gift for you available at our Welcome Desk – please stop by after worship. You are invited to join in all parts of worship. Everything you need is printed in this worship folder (except for the hymns, which are located in the red hymnal in the pews/chairs).

All who desire to receive Holy Communion are welcome at the table. If you do not wish to receive, you may simply stay seated. For instructions on how to receive the bread and wine, see the Communion section later in this booklet. Portions of worship in **bold print** are to be spoken/sung by the whole congregation. **We stand** for portions of our worship service. Please feel free to remain seated, if you prefer.

CHILDREN AND NURSERY

We love having children in worship and welcome their active presence. Please also feel free at any time to make use of our fully equipped and professionally staffed nursery, located at the north end of the Gathering Area (main church entrance). Our nursery is open and staffed during all regular morning services for children newborn to 5 years old. Nursing mothers are welcome to use the Caring Corner (through the double doors opposite the Gathering Area). Special activity bags for children in worship are available next to the elevator in the Gathering Area.

Sunday Morning Christian Formation Groups (Sunday School) for all ages are held at 9:30 each Sunday morning. Class information is available at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area.

Children's Church for ages 3-7 is held from 11:00-11:30. It begins in the Sanctuary with Children's Time and moves to the Nielsen Room (downstairs in the main church). Children rejoin parents in the Sanctuary during the Offering Song.

OUR WORSHIP

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church – gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy of our worship reflects God's constant love and promises through forgiveness, scripture, and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Following this liturgical pattern, as well as the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings, we are connected through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time.

OTHER NOTES

- **Amplification devices** for the hearing impaired are available from ushers or at the welcome desk.
- **Large print worship booklets** are available from the ushers.
- A **restroom** is located at the north end of the Gathering Area (additional restrooms downstairs).

MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S GRACE

Open ✚ *Authentic* ✚ *Relational* ✚ *Serving*
Pastor Mark Radecke Pastor Paul Weber

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If you're interested in why we do what we do, follow the notes in this column.

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

GATHERING

We come from our homes, our labor, our struggles, and our joys – which we share in fellowship as a Christian community. We are gathered together as God's people to worship. In this first part of our worship, we share together honestly – our sins, in confession, our joy in forgiveness.

WELCOME

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited forward for a brief message with a pastor.

TEMPLE TALK – Second Home's 10th Birthday

PRELUDE

8:00 *Step by Step* (arr. N. Butler-Moore, 1991)

9:30 *Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole* (arr. J. Vogt, 2000)

11:00 *I Believe*

Celebration Singers

Piano Solo

Second Home Children

(We stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation turns and faces the baptismal font.

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

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. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

+ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins, but no one should feel compelled.

Both our confession of sin and God's promise of mercy are rooted in our baptism. We come before God recalling our brokenness, but even more God's great grace.

**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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We sing as the Spirit gathers us for worship. This hymn sets the tone for the day.

GATHERING HYMN

522 As We Gather at Your Table

IN BABILONE

The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar, reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.

GREETING

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

This prayer collects the themes from today's scripture readings.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(We sit)

WORD

The first half of our liturgy focuses on the Word of God through the reading of scripture and preaching. The pattern of reading, singing, reading, singing is an ancient one, which comes from Christianity's roots in Jewish synagogue worship.

Liturgy, from the Greek, means "the work of the people." Our worship is designed so we all take parts. We are far more than just spectators.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21 (see pew Bible p. 52)

After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Psalms were the original Hymns in Holy Scripture, used by God's people for personal and corporate devotion. They continue to be prayed, sung and read by God's people all over the world as a rich and honest expression of faith.

The scripture readings follow a three-year cycle, called a lectionary. We are connected with other Christians all over the world, in many denominations, reading the same texts.

PSALM 103: 8-13

The congregation sings the Refrain after it is introduced by the Cantor, and thereafter as indicated.

LORD, you are full of com - pas - sion and mer - cy,
of com - pas - sion and mer - cy.

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities. **Refrain**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD. **Refrain**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12 (see back of bulletin)

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(We stand).

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

We stand during the gospel because we believe our Lord is present with us in the reading.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

Judy Wilfong, Biblical Storyteller

We invite you to put your bulletin down and listen to the Biblical Storyteller.

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

The Holy Gospel according to ... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(We sit)

SERMON

Pastor Mark Radecke

Silence for reflection follows.

(We stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

605 Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

DETROIT

This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith:

**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.**

The creeds (statements of faith) date back to the 4th century and contain the basics of what Christians around the world hold to be true.

The use of the non-capitalized word "catholic" here means simply worldwide or universal.

We pray as a community. The assisting minister leads this time to gather the prayers of all, and at his/her invitation you may add others aloud or silently in your heart.

Much more than a pleasant greeting – we do this to proclaim God's promise of peace to one another.

**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

Each petition ends:

. . . Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

**Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Have a prayer concern to share? Forms are available in the back cover of each hymnal.

PEACE

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

*The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:
"Peace be with you."*

(We sit)

MEAL

Our offerings are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service. They support the ministries of Christ's church in this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

This song becomes our prayer as our gifts are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service.

In the second half of our liturgy, we gather around the table, following Jesus' invitation. Here in this meal we encounter the risen Lord who gives himself for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening the Body of Christ.

OFFERING

8:00 *When We Are Living* (Spanish Traditional)

9:30 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (arr. B. Culli, 2017)

11:00 *I Believe* (M. Miller)

Celebration Singers

Organ Solo

Sanctuary Choir

(We stand)

OFFERING SONG: For the Fruit of All Creation - we sing verse one



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

The Great Thanksgiving is an ancient part of the worship that proclaims our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

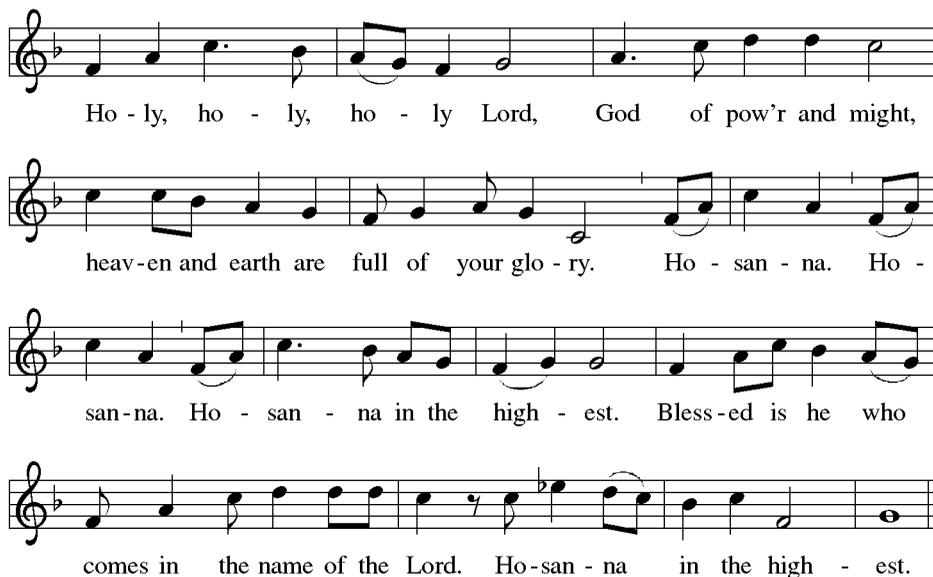
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up 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 . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

The "Holy, Holy, Holy" echoes the heavenly chorus in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus enters Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility. Some will make the sign of the cross at the announcement of God's presence: "Blessed is He..."

Eucharist is the Greek word for thanks.

*These are the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture:
1Cor. 11:23-26
Matt. 26:26-29
Luke 22:15-20*

Jesus taught his disciples this prayer. In this prayer, all our needs and concerns are addressed. See ELW page 1163 for Martin Luther's explanation of this prayer in the small catechism.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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

Everyone who hungers, come to the table. Eat what is good, that you may live. **Amen.**

(We sit)

The “last supper” was a meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. He invited them to share this meal in the future to remember him and he promised to be present in a mysterious, but very real sense.

All who desire to participate are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

COMMUNION

Processional Communion:

Come forward, first receive the bread* and then take a glass from the trays. You will be offered wine from the pouring chalice. Place your empty glass on the tray and return to your seat via the side aisle. For those who prefer grape juice, pre-filled cups of juice may be selected from the center of the serving trays. You may decline either element or both. If you choose to decline both, please feel free to come forward to receive God’s blessing.

*Gluten free bread is located next to the empty communion glass trays. Take one if needed and present it to a pastor for blessing.

As the ministers give the bread and cup to you, they say these words:

“The body of Christ, given for you . . . The blood of Christ, shed for you.” You may say: “Amen.”

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God

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.

8:00 *Bind Us Together* (B. Gillman, b. 1946)

Celebration Singers

359 *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

644 *Although I Speak with Angel’s Tongue*

(We stand)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and compassionate God, . . . our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

We gather once more in song as our worship concludes, and we prepare to take this good news into the world.

SENDING

Our worship does not end, but continues in the world. In our daily lives we are called to be ministers of God's love and mercy as we live and serve by the power of the risen Christ.

SENDING HYMN:

543 Go My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

The congregation turns & faces the cross reminding us that we follow Christ into the world & our daily lives.

In this blessing we are reminded we bear God's name as we depart to live out our baptism, serving our neighbor and spreading the gospel.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, +Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Feel free to stay and listen to music.

POSTLUDE

The Church's One Foundation (arr. J. Innes, 1983)

Organ

After worship, the pastor invites you to greet him and each other in the Gathering Area.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER: Pastor Mark Radecke

- ACOLYTES:** 8:00 — Gary Snyder
9:30 — Cheryl Hoak
11:00 — Todd Hedinger
- CRUCIFERS:** 8:00 — Gary Calleo
9:30 — Oris Griffin
11:00 — John Mulder
- LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 8:00 — Kristee Trumbo
9:30 — Lori Reich
11:00 — Neil Alexander
- SOUND TECHS:** 8:00 — Mark Byerly
9:30 — Keith Baker
11:00 — Mary Anne Duda
- LECTORS:** 8:00 — Gary Calleo
9:30 — Becca Rogers
11:00 — Sharon Bowers
- GREETERS:** 8:00 — *Ushers will also serve as greeters*
9:30 —
11:00 — Dennis & Darlene Baugh
- USHERS:** 8:00 — Carol McCormick, Diane Walton, Buddy Jones, Sylvia Hollen
9:30 — Carl Holyfield, Jon & Lori Oliver, Pam Bergey
11:00 — Terry & Linda Looney, Rion Looney, Steve Wilfong
- COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** 8:00 — Gary Snyder, Gary Calleo
9:30 — Oris Griffin, Janine Miller
11:00 — Jean Helmick, Hans Barthmus
- CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS:** Diane Bayer, Mia Ryan
- MUSICIANS:** Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister
Gianne Ge Zhu, Music Ministry Accompanist; Cantors: Kathy Thompson (8 & 9:30)
Jenny Gibson (11:00)

*Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary by Jim and Barbara Hogan.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**Please leave this worship booklet in basket
at sanctuary entrance for the next service.**