

13th Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

PRELUDE

Becky Retherford

Gathering

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN tune of ELW #731 (4 verses)
words from ACS #1000 "God's Work, Our Hands"

- 1 God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.
- 2 God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,

walking as friends, marching for freedom,
 running the race with God's future the goal.
 Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
 sharing the good news of your gospel.

3 God's work, our voice: singing together,
 praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
 praying for peace, shouting for justice,
 claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 sharing the good news of your gospel.

4 God is at work in and around us:
 seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
 Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
 gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
 Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
 sharing the good news of your gospel.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, **in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Word

BIBLE READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

BIBLE READING Philemon 1-21

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #512 "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
 open to the seed of your word.
 Lord, let my heart be good soil,
 where love can grow and peace is understood.
 When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
 When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
 When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
 Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
 Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33

SERMON "The Struggle of Allegiance" Rev. Julie Brenden

HYMN OF DAY ELW #660 "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
 till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
 our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *To Refrain*
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *To Refrain*
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
 as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *To Refrain*
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
 praise to the Crucified for victory! *To Refrain*

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

Responses: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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

THE PEACE

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

Meal

OFFERING & HYMN ELW #583 “Take My Life, That I May Be”

Refrain

**Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

- 1 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. *To Refrain*

- 2 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. *To Refrain*

- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee. *To Refrain*

- 4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. *To Refrain*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, **we return to you a portion of what you have given to**

us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION & HYMN ELW #491 "Come, Let Us Eat"

- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
our Lord's body let us take together.
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.
- 3 In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,
in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
in the presence of our Lord we gather.
- 4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, **through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed,
 who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,
 † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #840 “Now Thank We All Our God”

- 1 Now thank we all our God
 with hearts and hands and voices,
 who wondrous things has done,
 in whom this world rejoices;
 who, from our mothers' arms,
 has blest us on our way
 with countless gifts of love,
 and still is ours today.

- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God
 through all our life be near us,
 with ever joyful hearts
 and blessed peace to cheer us,
 and keep us all in grace,
 and guide us when perplexed,
 and free us from all harm
 in this world and the next.

- 3 All praise and thanks to God
 the Father now be given,
 the Son, and Spirit blest,
 who reign in highest heaven,
 the one eternal God,
 whom earth and heav'n adore;
 for thus it was, is now,
 and shall be evermore.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**