

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

PRELUDE

Becky Retherford

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our hope, our heart, our home. **Amen.**

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,
**we confess that we participate in systems
that perpetuate oppression and injustice.**
**We are often numb to the pain of the world around us,
resistant to change that costs us something,
and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.**
**We sin against your good creation,
failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.**
**Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will. Amen.**

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:
God knows you,
forgives you by the self-giving of ☩ Jesus Christ,
and frees you to love the world as you have been loved.
Creation's story will not end
until mourning, crying, and pain are no more.
When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.
Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW #520 vs. 1, 2, 4 “Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.

- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.

- 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

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.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 119:33-40

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

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching
I shall keep it with my whole heart.**

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

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

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

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

Turn away the reproach that I dread,
Because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments;
By your righteousness enliven me.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, **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.**

Word

BIBLE READING

Romans 13:8-14

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #646- vs. 1, 2 "The Peace of The Lord"

- 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord
the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
the peace of the Lord is for you and for me,
and also for all of God's children.
The peace of the Lord is for you and for me,
and also for all of God's children.
- 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord,
the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
the peace of the Lord is among us right now,
so open yourselves to receive it.
The peace of the Lord is among us right now,
so open yourselves to receive it.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

SERMON

"From Nobody to God's Somebody"

Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF DAY

ELW #716

"Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace"

- 1 Lord of all nations, grant me grace
to love all people, ev'ry race;
and in each person may I see
my kindred, loved, redeemed by thee.

- 2 Break down the wall that would divide
thy children, Lord, on ev'ry side.
My neighbor's good let me pursue;
let Christian love bind warm and true.
- 3 Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred
by loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do
will crucify my Lord anew.
- 4 Give me thy courage, Lord to speak
whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be,
help me forgive, rememb'ring thee.
- 5 With thine own love may I be filled
and by thy Holy Spirit willed,
that all I touch, where'er I be,
may be divinely touched by thee.

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

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

Responses: Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

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. **Amen.**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

Meal

OFFERING & HYMN ELW #678 vs 1,2 (*alt. tune*) "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

- 1 God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

- 2 Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, **your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

THE 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 God thanks and praise.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 & SONG ELW #253 "He Came Down"

- 1 He came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forevermore.
- 2 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.
- 3 He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.
- 4 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God of our salvation, **we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Creator God bless you and keep you.

Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.

Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #836 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.