HOLY COMMUNION Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

8:00 am and 9:30 am

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE: *Prelude in C*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

HYMN: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Printed on the next page.* J. S. Bach

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

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

G Amen.

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

Kneel/Stand

P 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.
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.

G Amen.

Stand

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE (GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen.

Sit

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

A A reading from Isaiah. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ^othen the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷^athe burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Later service only:

PSALM 146 (*The congregation's verses are in bold face type.*)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

²Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth, for there is no | help in them.
³When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,

and in that day | their thoughts perish.

⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help, whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

- ⁵who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them; who keeps his prom- | ise forever;
- ⁶who gives justice to those who | are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.

⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

 ⁸the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.
 ⁹The LORD shall | reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

A reading from James.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme

the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

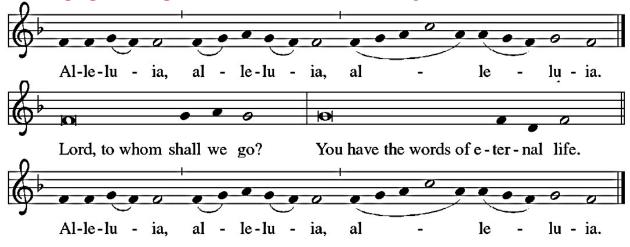
¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation sings the Acclamation, Verse, and repeats the Alleluia.



GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

P The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P The gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

<mark>Sit</mark> SERMON

Pastor Weleck

Stand Later service only: HYMN OF THE DAY: Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old Printed on the next page.



The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times. **APOSTLES CREED**

- **P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- **G** 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 into hell. 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

- A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- We pray for the church, for its pastors and other ministers, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace.
 Lord in your mercy.

Lord, in your mercy,

- **C** hear our prayer.
- We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples.
 Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,

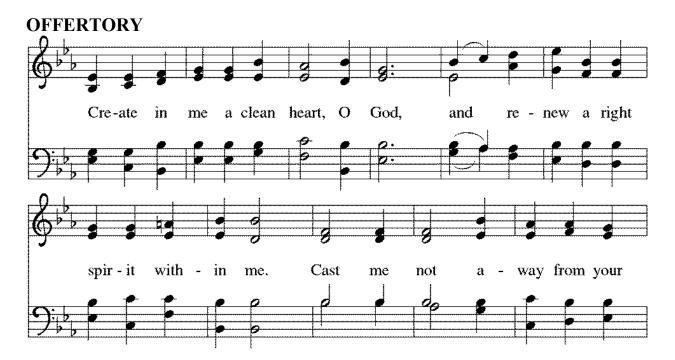
C hear our prayer.

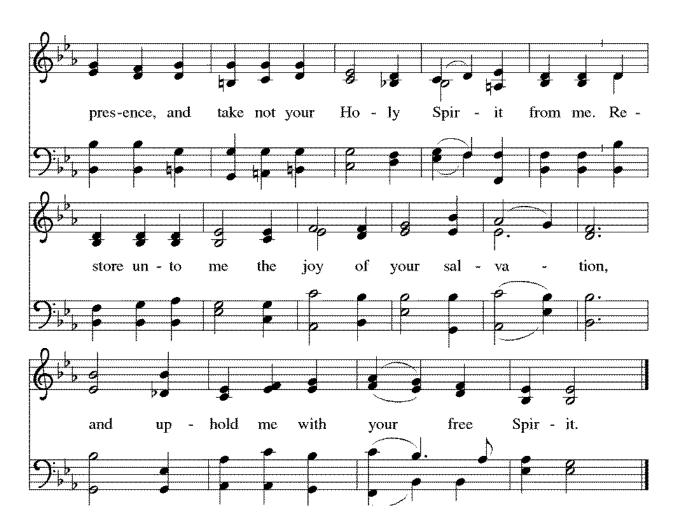
- A We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,
- **G** hear our prayer.
- Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

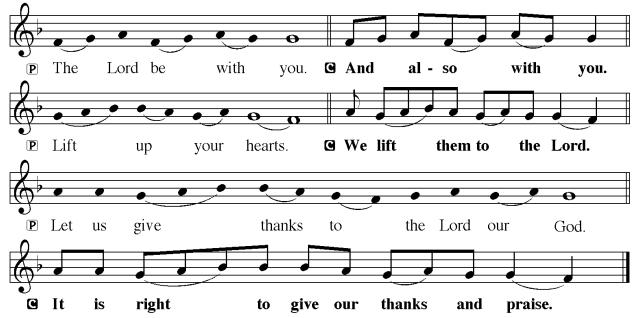
The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church.





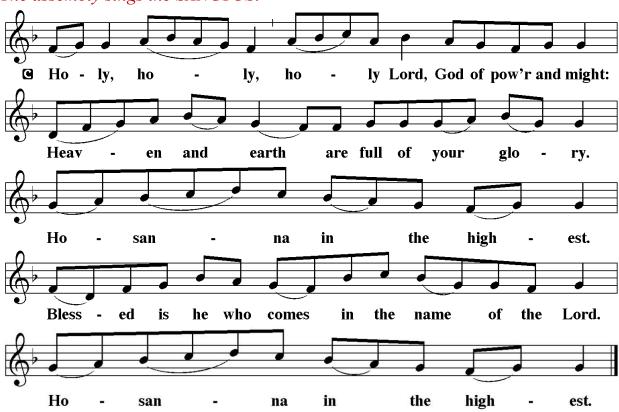
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:



The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:

■ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The assembly sings the SANCTUS:

The WORDS OF INSTITUTION are sung to the music Blessed Martin Luther himself composed specifically for this purpose.

 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.
- 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

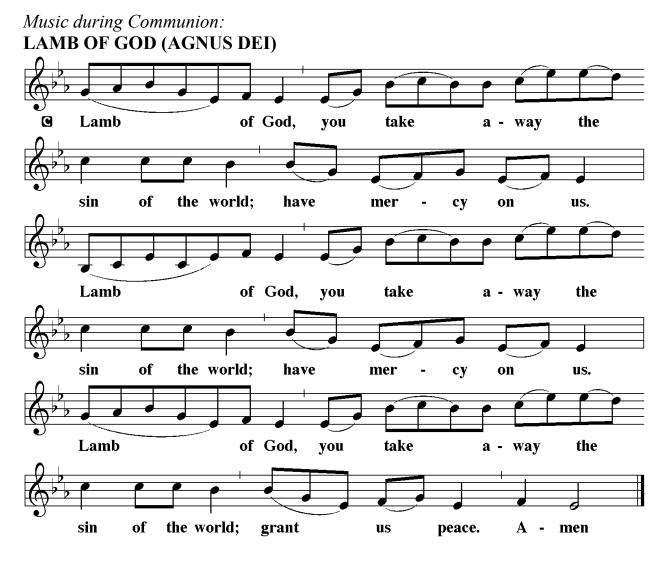
- Behold the Lamb of God,
 behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
 Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
- Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Sit COMMUNION

When giving the bread, the communion ministers say The body of Christ, given for you. and each person may respond

Amen.

We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are "truly and substantially" present "in, with, and under" the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to come forward for a blessing. At the direction of the ushers, approach the communion station, receive the host in your palm, move to the side and place the host in your mouth, and return to your seat.



ANTHEM: Joysong

C. Cooman

Stand

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

G Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

 Let us pray.
 We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen.



DISMISSAL

- **A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

HYMN: What a Friend We Have in Jesus Printed on the next page.

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What a Friend We Have in Jesus



OFFERING

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

POSTLUDE: March

H. Coleman

+ + +

Today we welcome Bruce Tonkin to the organ bench

while Laurie Mueller is away. Bruce recently retired from an over 40-year career in church music. Serving most recently at St. James Lutheran in Pottstown, Bruce has also been the music director at both New Hanover Lutheran (Gilbertsville) and Jerusalem Lutheran (Schwenksville). Bruce even spent three years here at Augustus (1975-1978). Welcome (back!) Bruce, and thank you for leading us in song today!

The Time of the Church is the season after Pentecost, beginning with The Holy Trinity and ending with Christ the King. These weeks focus on Christ's ministry and teaching.

On Sundays for which the color is green, it is appropriate to omit either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise, reserving both together for festival seasons.

The liturgical color green, symbolic of growth, is used for the season after Epiphany and after Pentecost.

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Lois Robinson	Worship and Music	Drloisdrobinson1@gmail.com
Janet Stokes	Parish Life/Stewardship	sjastokes@aol.com

Worship Assistants

Vestry Greeters: Gary Wessner, Lois Robinson, and Frank DePaul Ushers: Dick Allebach, Scott Halteman, and Mike Taylor Lectors: 8:00 am: Laurie Mueller 10:30 am: Sonya Sowards Altar Guild: Linda Romano and Sally Sweeney Offering Tabulation: Gary Wessner, Lois Robinson, and Frank DePaul Video Production: Jim Lien, Jeannie Funk, or Jonathan Mueller.

<u>The Flowers that Adorn the Altar in the Brick Church Nave</u> are given to the glory of God by Richard and Lois Robinson in honor of daughter Kathryn Anne Robinson's 35th birthday.

<u>The Flowers that Adorn the Altar in the Old Church Nave</u> are given to the glory of God by Sally Sweeney in memory of her mother, Virginia L. Weicheld, and Debra Augustine in loving memory of her son, Samuel Carlos Augustine.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle</u> is given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Bryan McClain in celebration of Maggie and Alex's wedding.

The Worship Bulletins are given to the glory of God by

<u>Altar Guild Help Wanted:</u> Altar Guild members attend to the altar on Sundays. They change the paraments, prepare Holy Communion, place the flowers, and a host of other small jobs that are so important to our weekly worship. No experience required! We'll train you! Contact Deb Scholl at <u>Schollde@aol.com</u>.



Dear Friends of the Spring Turkey Dinner,

Miracles do happen with the help from all of you. For this second year of living with the challenges of the global pandemic our "Prayer and Pledge Drive", in lieu of the annual Augustus Lutheran Church Spring Turkey Dinner / Craft & Vendor Fair, is once again initiated for Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson and their family whom we have supported for several years as missionaries in the healthcare profession in Tanzania. We want to continue to help support them in their wonderful work to train Tanzanian health professionals, develop a neonatal care unit, and establish a feeding program for malnourished children. Through their tireless efforts they have successfully increased the infant survival rate to 93%, making it the highest in the underdeveloped areas of Africa. Another cause for rejoicing is that Dr. Evelyine Mushi, who has worked with Dr. Swanson for the past three years, received the ELCA International Leaders Program scholarship to study Pediatrics in South Africa for 4 years. The Swansons are not only working to save lives but also to nurture leadership which will ensure their legacy and the future of Tanzanians for many generations to come.

Because of the ongoing pandemic, we need to look to members and friends of our congregation and the community to support the ministry of our pediatric missionaries. Would you prayerfully consider being a part of a global Christian community with a financial contribution, a faithful prayer, or both? No contribution is too small, even praying goes a long way! **ALL DONATIONS RECEIVED BY 10/31/2021 WILL BE MATCHED** by two generous gifts: a generous gift from **Pastor Kochenderfer** (up to \$1,000), and a generous gift from **Pastor Martha and Pastor Howard Kriebel** (up to \$1,500). So, every dollar you contribute will be increased two and a half -fold!

On behalf of the Swansons, the Augustus Women of the ELCA, and the Christian community at Augustus Lutheran Church, we would like to thank you in advance for your support. For your convenience, you can make your contribution by one of the following two ways:

- 1. Donating online at <www.augustustrappe.org>. Just follow the "DONATE" prompts under the "GIVING" tab. Don't forget to add "WELCA-Turkey Dinner" and your phone number in the comments box.
- 2. By mailing-in your financial commitment. Checks and money orders can be made out to 'Augustus Women of the ELCA'. Additionally, please write "Turkey Dinner" on the memo line. Send your donation to the following address to ensure your donation is delivered to the applicable location:

