



**Fifteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**
Sunday, September 1, 2024
Peace Lutheran Church
ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in-person or on-line we are blessed to have you worshiping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship.

MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE — The Gift of Love, Traditional English Melody Arr. by Marilyn Ham

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Pianist — Pamela Scott

NOISY OFFERING TO BENEFIT SISTER SYNOD IN MADAGASCAR

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

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.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW #879



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

ELW P.187

Refrain

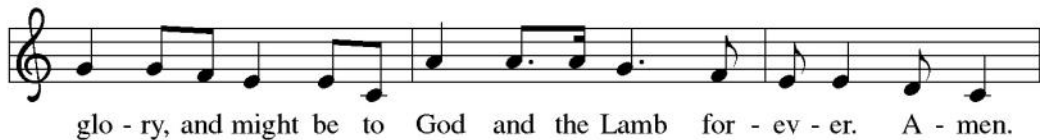
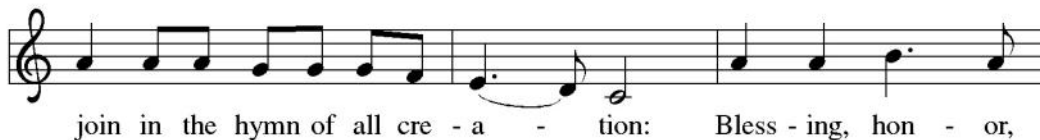
This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

READING: James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW P. 188

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



GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The holy gospel according to St. Mark the 7th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR MARY E. ZUPANSIC

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

Restore in Us, O God

ELW #328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

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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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

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

+ THE MEAL +

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS



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Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through 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.

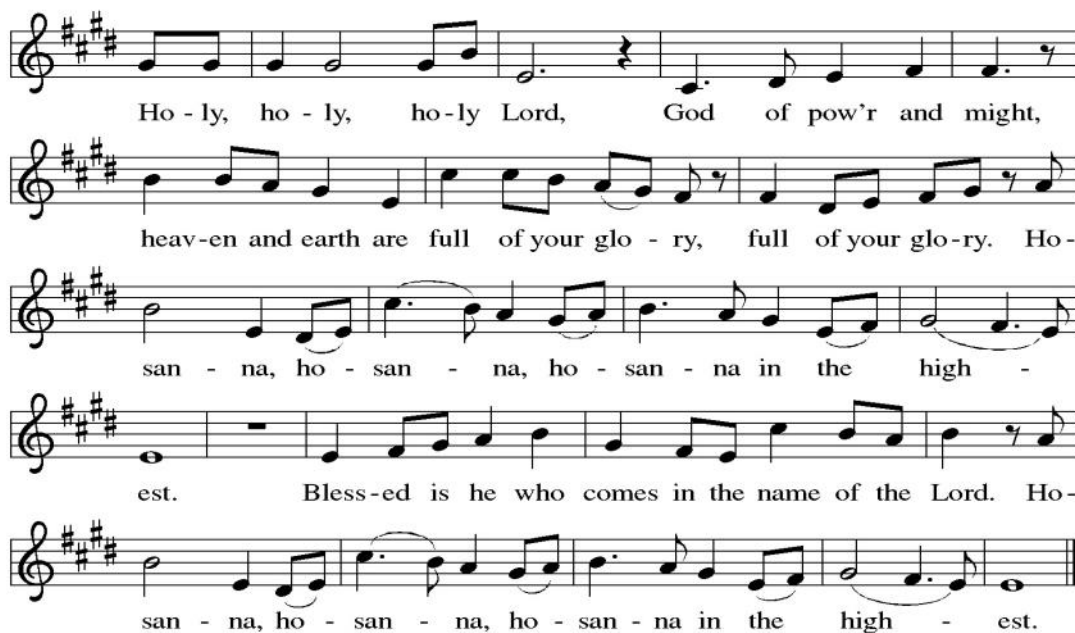
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

ELW P. 190



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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 HOLY COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
 Come!
 Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW P. 191

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION SONGS *Let Everything That Has Breath
 Take My Life, That I May Be
 What Feast of Love*

Video Song
ELW #685
ELW #487

TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT — STEWARDSHIP

BLESSING

God all mighty,

God most merciful

✠ bless you, keep you,

and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

This Is My Father's World

ELW #824



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — God, Thy Great Goodness Never Ends, L. Van Beethoven © Ashley

Publications, Inc. 1972

Pianist — Pamela Scott

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ABOUT THIS WEEK'S TEXT

JESUS PROTESTS AGAINST HUMAN CUSTOMS BEING GIVEN THE WEIGHT OF DIVINE LAW, WHILE THE ESSENCE OF GOD'S LAW IS IGNORED. TRUE UNCLEANNESS COMES NOT FROM EXTERNAL THINGS, BUT FROM THE INTENTIONS OF THE HUMAN HEART. LAST WEEK JESUS TOLD US "THE WORDS THAT I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU ARE SPIRIT AND LIFE" (JOHN 6:63). NOW JAMES SAYS GOD HAS GIVEN US BIRTH BY THE WORD OF TRUTH. WE WHO WERE WASHED IN THE WORD WHEN WE WERE BORN IN THE FONT RETURN TO IT EVERY SUNDAY TO ASK GOD TO CREATE IN US CLEAN HEARTS.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

PETE ELLERTSEN, DEBI ELLERTSEN, PAULA TONELLATO,
NORM KOEFOED, IVY KOEFOED, GENE WALKER, NANCY KIEL,
RAY STROH, PASTOR SALLY HOUCK, JUDY BARHOOVER,
DONNA HERSEMANN, KEN HERSEMANN,
PAUL EDGECOMB, TAMMY NORTON, JESSICA BUCHANAN

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to peace.lutheran@comcast.net OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name.

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1:

PRESIDING AND PREACHING: PASTOR MARY E. ZUPANSIC

ASSISTING:

USHERS:

CAMERA: MIKE HORN

POWERPOINT: VALERIE SPURGEON

MUSICIAN: PAMELA SCOTT

REFRESHMENTS: FRIENDS OF FELLOWSHIP

FLOWERS: LINDA RICE — **IN HONOR OF FRED RICE'S BIRTHDAY**

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1	IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM — 9:30AM NOISY OFFERING TO BENEFIT SISTER SYNOD IN MADAGASCAR
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2	DWELLING IN THE WORD — 10:45AM LABOR DAY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3	COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE 5:30PM (ZOOM)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4	CHOIR PRACTICE—7:00PM
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7	PANCAKE BREAKFAST!! 8:30AM—10:00AM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8	GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM — 9:30AM DWELLING IN THE WORD — 10:45AM COLLECTION OF CEREAL BOXES FOR GRACE FOOD PANTRY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NOISY
OFFERING
TODAY**
to benefit
**SISTER SYNOD
IN
MADAGASCAR**



DWELLING IN THE WORD
Sundays at 10:45 a.m.



Intentional Prayer

**CONTINUE TO PRAY
FOR ONE ANOTHER.**



**HELP US
STOCK OUR
MICRO
PANTRY
STORAGE
SHELVES**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL KITS

In September we will collect bars of soap for our Lutheran World Relief Personal Kits. Elaine Urekar is purchasing 80 towels. We have 80 combs, clippers and tooth brushes. All we need is **160 bars of soap**-two in each kit. Thanks for your generous help in this cause.



PASTORAL CARE

If you would like a visit from Pastor Mary, or if you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor on her cell phone 920-671-4338.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us this Fall in beautiful Springfield For the



C/SI Synod Women of the ELCA
2024 Biennial Convention

We will elect new board members, share stories, meet our Churchwide representative, and shop Fair Trade.


Saturday, October 19, 2024
St. John's Lutheran Church
2477 W. Washington Street
Springfield, IL 62702

Watch for more information.



Drive Out Hunger

2024 Charity Golf Outing for Grace Lutheran Food Pantry



50th Anniversary
of Grace Lutheran Food Pantry

Sunday, September 8th
12:00pm Registration & Box Lunch
1:00pm Shotgun Start
Scramble Format with 4-Person Teams
Putting Contest 12:00-1:00pm
Piper Glen Golf Course • Springfield, IL

In addition to Grace Lutheran, the primary supporters of the Food Pantry are Peace Lutheran Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, and First Presbyterian Church.

**HELPING HANDS
MEAL
MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23
WATCH NYCU
FOR MORE
INFORMATON**





Peace Lutheran Church
2800 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: 217-546-7646
E-mail: peace.lutheran@comcast.net



Come meet our neighbors and share a pancake breakfast, Saturday, Sept. 7.
Sunday, Sept. 8 bring donations of boxes of cereal to benefit Grace Food Pantry.



God's work. Our hands.

FREE Pancake Breakfast – 9/7
Boxed Cereal Collection – 9/8

September 8
2024