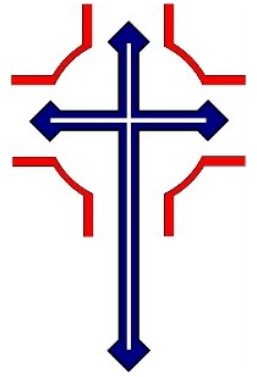


Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Washington, IL
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026

Welcome – Please take a moment to sign the black attendance books in the pews.



Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

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

Please keep silent for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: As forgiven children of God, we have peace with God, and peace with one another.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And Also with you.**

P Let us share that peace with one another.



Hymn: "God Is Here!" Red Book #526



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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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.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A** - **men.**

Hymn of Praise

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, 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.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



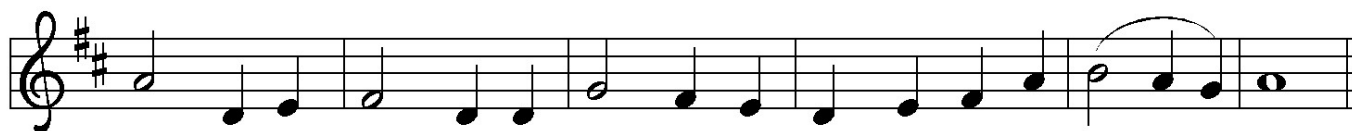
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



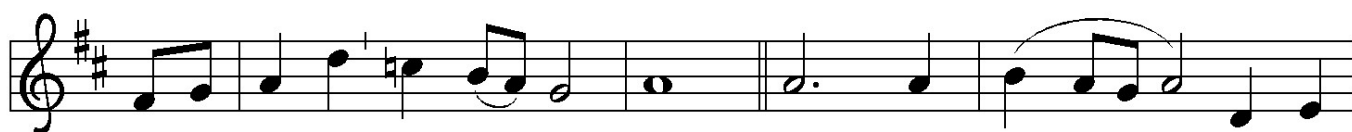
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you.**

Will you pray with me?

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.

First Reading – Ezekiel 33:7-11 Pew Bible #692

7 So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8 If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. 9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. 10 Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” 11 Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

R The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life¹ in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for¹ those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

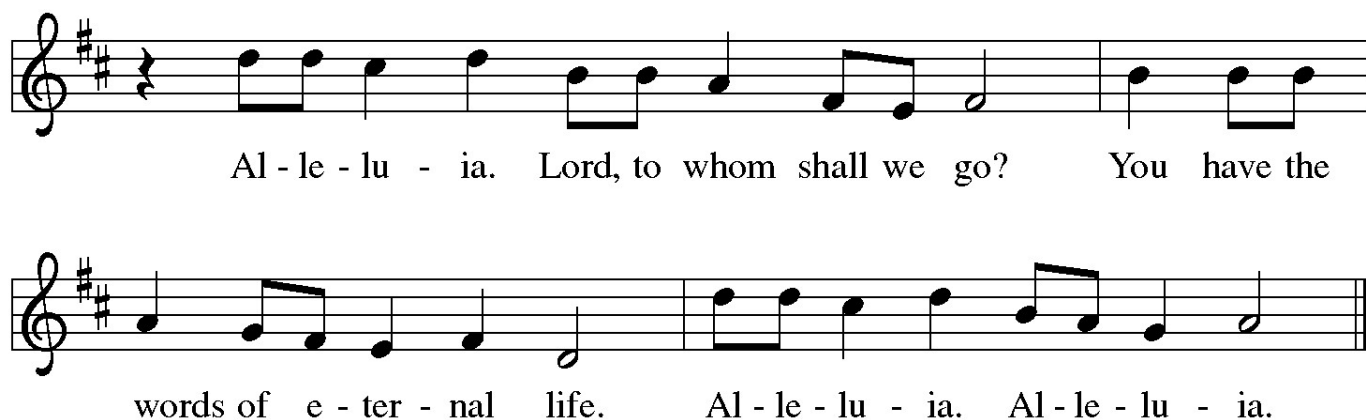
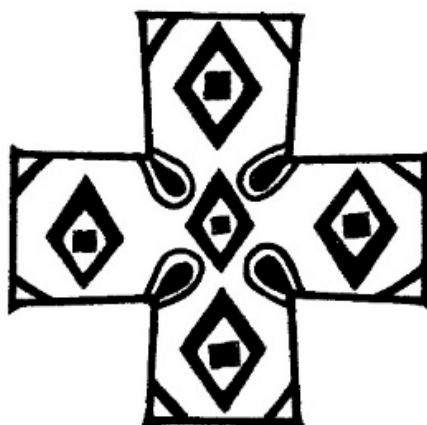
⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

Second Reading – Romans 13:8-14 Pew Bible #919

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

R The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God



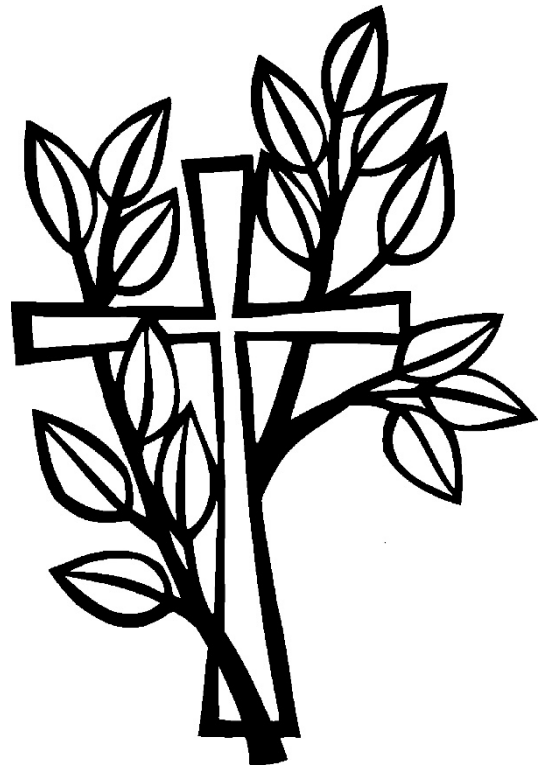
Gospel Reading – Matthew 18:18-20 Pew Bible #793

C Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

C Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Pastor Mike Rahlf



Sermon Hymn: "On Eagle's Wings" Red Book #787

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

- 2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge, with faithfulness your shield. ***Refrain***
- 3 You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. ***Refrain***
- 4 For to the angels God's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Final refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand;
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957 Text © 1979 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Apostles' Creed

- C: 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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

Prayers: After each portion of the prayers finishes with “Hear us, O God ,” please respond, **“your mercy is great.”**

Offering: Jesus gives us life, hope, and salvation. Let us commit ourselves to God and joyfully lift our offerings to the Lord.



Please take a moment to give an offering to the church on the website with the Tithe.ly app or bring your gift to the plate during communion.

Faith Lutheran website
link

Offering Prayer

P Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

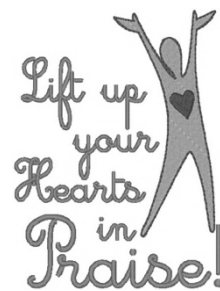
P Lift up your hearts

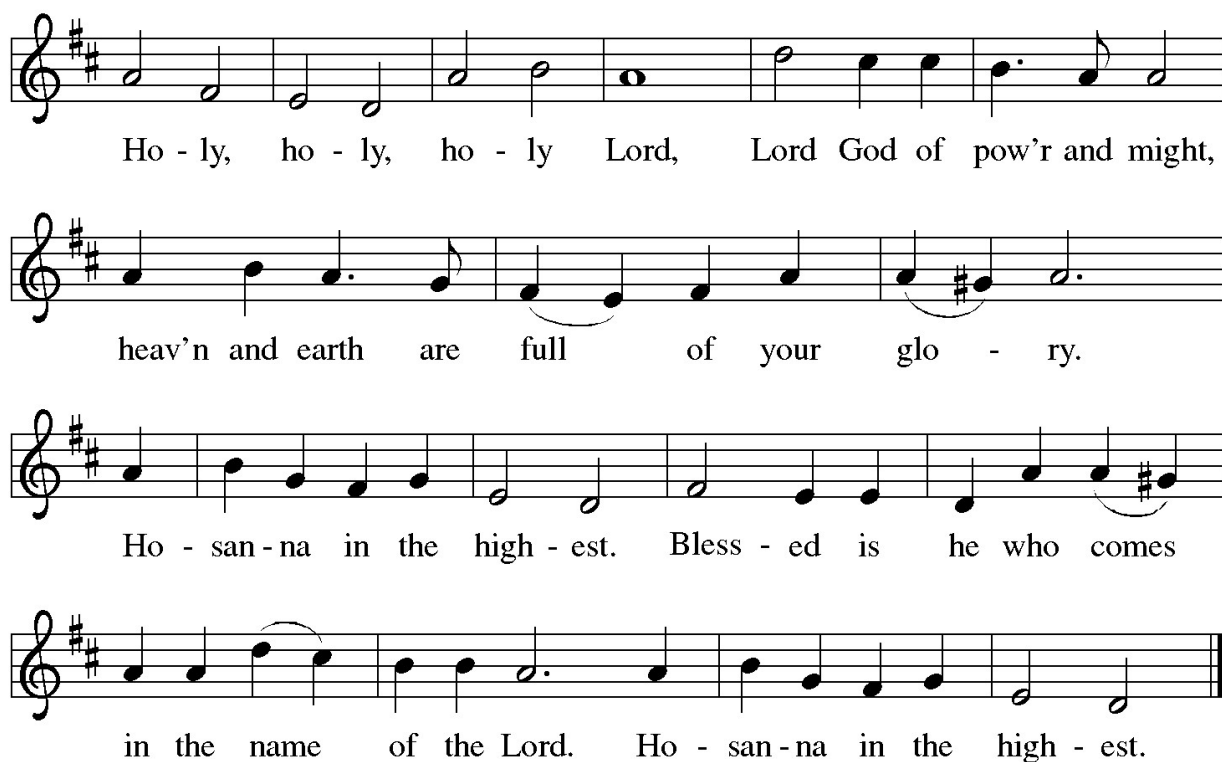
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





Holy Communion

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.



C The 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**



 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.

Communion Distribution



Communion Hymn: "As the Grains of Wheat" Red Book #465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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Communion Prayer

P God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

Closing Hymn: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" Red Book #543



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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