

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 31, 2025, 9:30 AM

### The Lord's Supper at St. Paul

*God's Word teaches the real presence of Christ's body and blood invisibly in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. We take seriously the spiritual care of those who commune at our altar. It is important that every partaker must be a baptized Christian and come with repentant faith. The Word of God states that no one offend against Christ and His Word by denying His true presence and its promise and seal of forgiveness. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (see 1 Cor. 11:27-29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of what is taught and believed at this altar (1 Cor. 11:26), any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession (beliefs) differing from that of this congregation (that is, belong to another church body or denomination) and yet desire to receive the sacrament, should first speak with the pastor before communing. As a courtesy, guests from sister congregations of the LCMS or from congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) are also asked to introduce themselves to the pastor before communing.*

### As We Gather



Entering the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the traditional site of the birth of Jesus, is one of the most memorable experiences for any Christian pilgrim visiting the Holy Land. First constructed at the commission of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great in AD 326, the church is on the oldest site continually used for worship by Christians anywhere in the world. Although the basilica initially had a grand arched entrance in its first thousand years, it came into a period of disuse and neglect after the conquest of the Holy Land by the Islamic rulers of the Ottoman Empire in AD 1516. In an effort to prevent people from entering the church with horses and cattle, the Christians caring for the building at that time walled up the main entrance, leaving only a very small door. This opening has ever since been known as the "Door of Humility." It makes a most fitting way for those who come to worship at the site of the manger of the Christ Child to enter that sacred space. Where we worship here and now is also a sacred space. Although we may not have needed to bow down to enter the front door today, bringing an attitude of humility to our worship of our gracious Lord is truly fitting for us.

## **Summer Saint Celebration Sequence** *Johann Rist, hymn writer, and all “unsung” saints*

According to Christian tradition that goes back to the earliest days of the church, the proper day for remembering a saint was on the day that the person died—if that day was known. Selecting the date of a Christian’s death as the day of remembrance was a celebration of their birth into the fullness of eternal life and a rejoicing at their heavenly homecoming. Among the multitude of Christians whose death and rebirth day was August 31 is Lutheran hymn writer Johann Rist, who died on this day in Wedel, Germany, in 1667. One of the most prolific Lutheran hymn writers of the seventeenth century, Pastor Rist authored more than 650 hymns during his lifetime. Included among his compositions are the classic Christmas chorale “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” (*LSB* 378) and stanzas of the Holy Week hymn “O Darkest Woe” (*LSB* 448). His texts for Holy Communion include “Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread” (*LSB* 625) and “O Living Bread from Heaven” (*LSB* 642). Although he was named Poet Laureate of the Empire and was invited to serve in large and prestigious congregations, Pastor Rist remained in his small German village, serving as both pastor and physician to the townspeople. In a typically humble statement about his hymn writing, Johann Rist stated “The sweet cross has squeezed many hymns out of me.” Around the world the treasure of sacred texts he left as his legacy continues to be a blessing.

Although there are many saintly people remembered by name on the church’s list of feasts and festivals and roster of commemorations, there are countless men and women of faith whose names have been lost through the centuries. The text writers or the composers of many of the hymns we love to sing are unknown. We do not know who are the gifted craftsmen and women responsible for much of the beautiful Christ-honoring sacred art and architecture of ages gone by. Yet their work for the Lord certainly merits our respect and appreciation. One of the more recent hymns of the church helps us honor those saints who are not known by name. Written by American clergyman Carl Daw in the twentieth century, the text reminds us that the courts of heaven are filled with saints who may not have been recognized fully during their earthly lives but who joyfully find fulfillment and lasting joy in the presence of the risen Christ, the host of the eternal feast. Together we join in the three stanzas of **“We Sing for All the Unsung Saints.”**

## Hymn Introduction

Of the four uses of the word *summer* in the hymns of *Lutheran Service Book*, perhaps the most memorable is its usage as the first word of the second stanza of **“Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”** Text writer Thomas Chisholm lists the seasons of the year as “summer and winter and springtime and harvest” as annual witnesses to and reminders of the faithfulness, mercy, and love of God. Written in 1923 by Chisholm, who was serving as pastor of a Methodist church in Kansas at the time, the hymn gained worldwide acclaim after being introduced to audiences first in Great Britain in 1954 and subsequently in the United States by singer George Beverly Shea, who was associated with the Billy Graham crusades. The hymn reflects the words of the psalmist as he exclaims to the Lord, “With my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations” (Psalm 89:1). In summer and in all seasons of the year, it is our joy to sing of the blessings we know as God’s faithful people in Christ Jesus.

## Welcome

### Hymn of Invocation: 678 “We Sing for All the Unsung Saints”

#### Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

#### Exhortation

*Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5*

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

## Confession of Sins

O almighty God, merciful Father,

**I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

## Absolution

*[John 20:19–23]*

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Introit

*Psalm 75:1–2, 6, 9; antiphon: v. 7*

It is God who executes judgment,  
putting down one and lifting up another.

**We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near.**

**We recount your wondrous deeds.**

At the set time that I appoint  
I will judge with equity.

**For not from the east or from the west  
and not from the wilderness comes lifting up.**

But I will declare it forever;  
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

**It is God who executes judgment,  
putting down one and lifting up another.**

## Gloria Patri ♪

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.**

## Kyrie ♪

*Mark 10:47*

**Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## Gloria in Excelsis ♪

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

Glory be to God on high:  
and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day: Proper 17 (Year C)

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 25:2–10

<sup>2</sup>It is the glory of God to conceal things,  
but the glory of kings is to search things out.

<sup>3</sup>As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,  
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup>Take away the dross from the silver,

and the smith has material for a vessel;  
<sup>5</sup>take away the wicked from the presence of the king,  
and his throne will be established in righteousness.  
<sup>6</sup>Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,  
<sup>7</sup>for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.  
What your eyes have seen  
<sup>8</sup>do not hastily bring into court,  
for what will you do in the end,  
when your neighbor puts you to shame?  
<sup>9</sup>Argue your case with your neighbor himself,  
and do not reveal another's secret,  
<sup>10</sup>lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,  
and your ill repute have no end.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle: Hebrews 13:1–17**

<sup>1</sup>Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. <sup>5</sup>Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not fear;  
what can man do to me?"

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup>Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

<sup>10</sup>We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat.

<sup>11</sup>For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy

places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp.

<sup>12</sup>So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. <sup>13</sup>Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup>For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup>Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

<sup>17</sup>Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 14:1–14**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

**Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup>And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” <sup>4</sup>But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup>And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” <sup>6</sup>And they could not reply to these things.

<sup>7</sup>Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, <sup>8</sup>“When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, <sup>9</sup>and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the

presence of all who sit at table with you. <sup>11</sup>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup>He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

### **Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,**

**whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**



the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

### Children's Hymn of the Month “Hallelu , Hallelu” (twice)

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord  
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord  
Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah!  
Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah;  
Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

### Children's Object Lesson

### Hymn of the Day: 620 “Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

### Sermon

### Offering *(Sunday only)*

*(Please fill out the fellowship pad beside you in the pew)*

### Offertory ♪

*Psalm 51:10–12*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

## **Preface**

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**It is meet and right so to do.**

## **Proper Preface (Abbreviated)**

It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

## **Sanctus** ♪

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;**

**heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, blessed is He,**

**blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

*Matthew 6:9–13*

## **The Words of Our Lord**

*Matthew 26:26–28;*

## **Pax Domini**

*John 20:19*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **Agnus Dei** ♪

*John 1:29*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

## **Distribution of the Sacrament**

### **Visitors:**

*Please read the communion statement at the beginning of this worship folder.*

### **Distribution Hymn: 628 “Your Table I Approach”**

### **Distribution Hymn: 695 “Not for Tongues of Heaven’s Angels”**

### **Nunc Dimittis** ♪

*Luke 2:29–32*

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared  
before the face of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving**

*Psalm 107:1*

**O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
and His mercy endureth forever.**

### **Post-Communion Collect**

**Amen.**

### **Salutation**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**The Lord be with you.  
And with thy spirit.**

### **Benedicamus**

*Psalm 103:1*

**Bless we the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

### **Benediction**

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**Amen, amen, amen.**

## **Hymn to Depart: 809 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

### **Leaving**

**Offering** *(Wednesday Evenings only)*  
*(The offering plates are in the back of the church.)*

### **Acknowledgments**

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