



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023

We hope you feel welcome here.

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

As disciples of Christ who value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people, and who seek justice, racial equity, and reconciliation, we welcome all God's children to an inclusive community. This welcome is extended without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

We hope you can participate fully in worship.

Everything needed to participate in today's worship is found in this bulletin. The hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) located under the seat in front of you. Worshipers are invited to stand as you are able at the places marked * and to respond when indicated with bold type. We gently remind you to silence all electronic devices.

Our youngest worshipers and their parents may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the sanctuary or listening to the service from our unstaffed nursery. Activity bags are available in the narthex and children's bulletins are available from an usher.

Assisted hearing devices and complete-service, large-print bulletins are available from an usher. The blue chairs with arms are reserved for people with mobility limitations. Ushers can remove chairs to place a wheelchair.

We hope you know Holy Communion is for you. At communion, everyone is welcome. This includes doubters, young children, and folks who have yearned for this feast. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers and pink wine or red grape juice. If you have mobility limitations, please take the closest available place at the altar, or ask an usher for Communion to be brought to you at your seat.

We hope you know our welcome extends beyond our building.

Today's 8:30 a.m. service is livestreamed. By attending this service, you are giving permission to be in the video we produce.

We hope you know we pray for you.

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service. Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors; prayer requests made before the service begins will be included in the Prayers of the People.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT

Kathryn Davidson, Adult Choir Director

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C: Amen.

*ENTRANCE HYMN

This Is My Father's World

This Is My Father's World

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

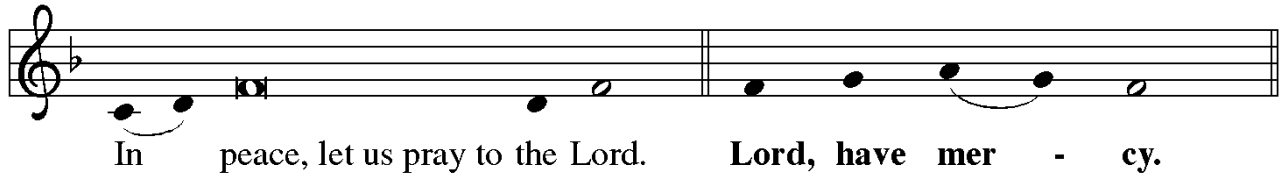
rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

***GREETING**

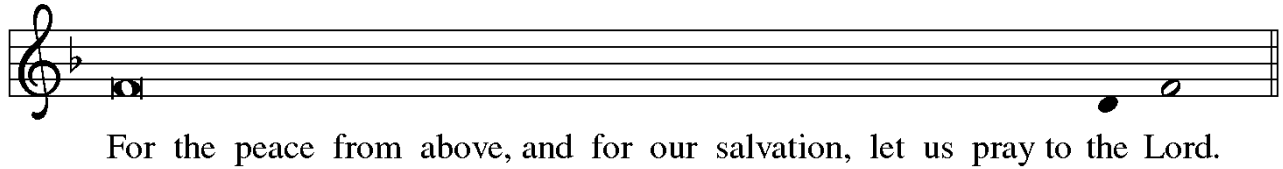
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

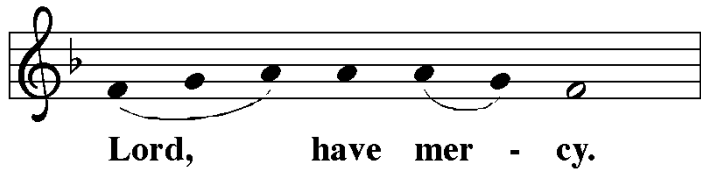
*KYRIE



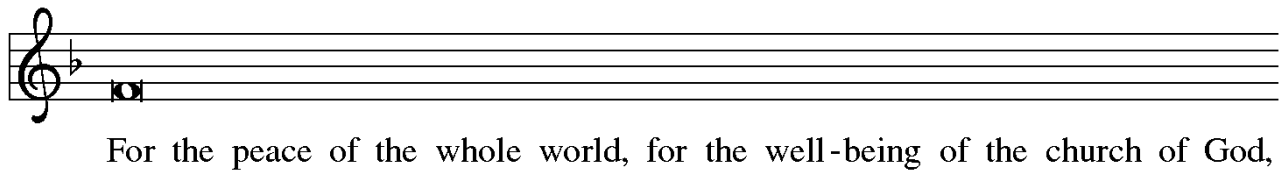
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



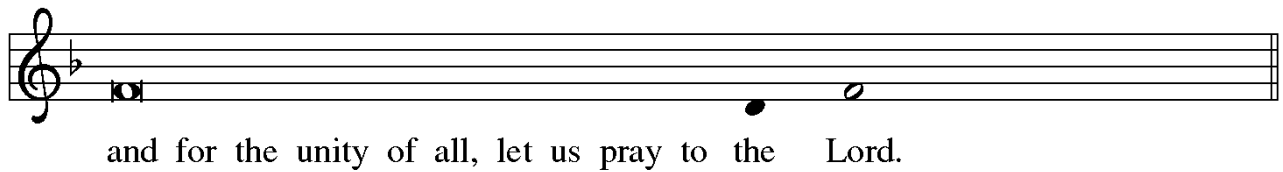
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



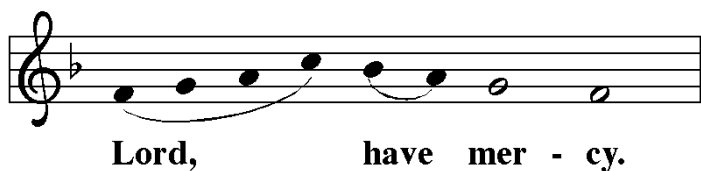
Lord, have mer - cy.



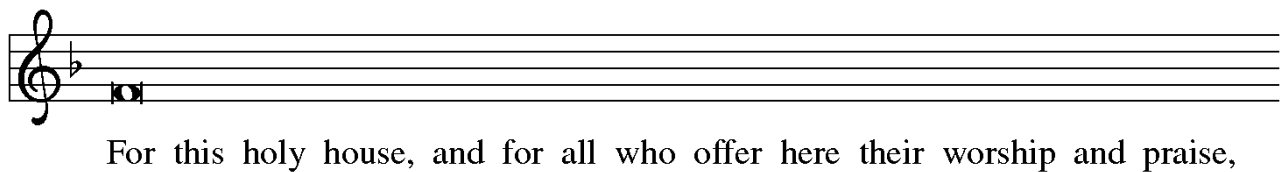
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. God of unsearchable mystery and light, your weakness is greater than our strength, your foolishness brings all our cleverness to naught, your gentleness confounds the power we would claim. You call first to be last and last to be first, servant to be leader and ruler to be underling of all. Pour into our hearts the wisdom of your Word and Spirit, that we may know your purpose and live to your glory through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

+WORD+

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Pr. Lecia Beck

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 27:1-3, 8-12

David said in his heart, "I shall certainly perish one day by the hand of Saul; there is nothing better for me than to escape to the land of the Philistines; then Saul will despair of seeking me any longer within the borders of Israel, and I shall escape out of his hand." So David set out and went over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to King Achish son of Maach of

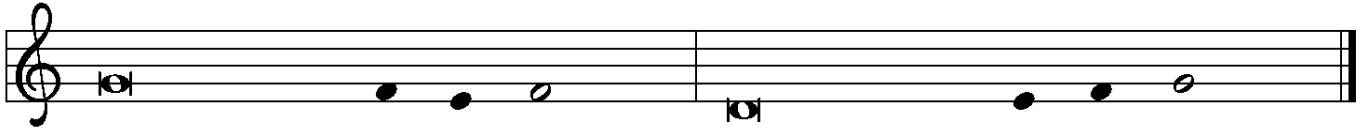
Gath. David stayed with Achish at Gath, he and his troops, every man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, Nabal's widow.

Now David and his men went up and made raids on the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites, for these were the landed settlements from Telam on the way to Shur and on to the land of Egypt. David struck the land, leaving neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the clothing and came back to Achish. When Achish asked, "Against whom have you made a raid today?" David would say, "Against the Negeb of Judah," or "Against the Negeb of the Jerahmeelites," or "Against the Negeb of the Kenites." David left neither man nor woman alive to be brought back to Gath, thinking, "They might tell about us and say, 'David has done so and so.'" Such was his practice all the time he lived in the country of the Philistines. Achish trusted David, thinking, "He has made himself utterly abhorrent to his people Israel; therefore he shall always be my servant."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-4, 12-14, 18-19



¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

²**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the
people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in
distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.

¹³**He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.**

¹⁴From oppression and violence he re- | deems
their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.

¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious I name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory.
A- I men. Amen.

SECOND READING


Romans 2:12-16

All who have sinned apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged in accordance with the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous in God's sight but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles, who do not possess the law, by nature do what the law requires, these, though not having the law, are a law to themselves. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, as their own conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts will accuse or perhaps excuse them on the day when, according to my gospel, God through Christ Jesus judges the secret thoughts of all.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1-7

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

"If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a

great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!"

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff contains the vocal melody, and the bass staff contains the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, corresponding to the three verses.

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in three lines.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

The refrain section begins with the word 'Refrain' in italics. The musical notation shows the first two lines of the refrain, with the vocal melody in the treble staff and piano accompaniment in the bass staff.

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The second part of the refrain continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in two lines.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 THE CHURCH

A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

A: Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care. We pray for the ongoing work of Truth and Healing movements in our own denomination, in our country, and in other nations, as they seek to learn the true history of Native peoples and the realities in which they now live. We pray that those engaged in the work would help bring your healing and justice. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Be present in the work of all those who strive to preserve our planet from the ravages of climate change---in our communities, our nation, and across your world. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. We pray today for the judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and clerks of Monroe County's court system; for county probation officers; for our county sheriff and his staff. Move us to treat all people with dignity and to work for justice and equity. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Be with all those who are living in this community without a home or without shelter. Bless the work of Beacon, New Hope for Families, Monroe County United Ministries, Heading Home of South Central Indiana, and all groups that seek to care for your people. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick. We remember especially: Elif, Roger, Paula, Deborah, Mike, Bob, Andrew, Doug, Yvonne, Evelyn, Jacky, Keri, Annelize, Barbara, Holly, Michelle, Shawna, Debra, Tom, Kathy, Benjamin, and Steve. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving all your children who have died and gone before us. Today we offer condolences to Amy Bartleson Balcam on the death of her brother-in-law Scott, who died on September 6. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share the peace with a wave, a bow, or maybe an elbow, checking in with your neighbor for whatever feels safe and conveys the spirit of peace and reconciliation this ritual intends.

OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the **Together In Community** pads. Make note of the names of your neighbors so you can introduce yourself after the service. These pads and pencils are sanitized at the end of each service.*

Pass the offering plate to your neighbor as it reaches you, gifts may be placed in the offering plate or you can give on our website, stlconline.org. St. Thomas collects gifts to support our mission of sharing, living, and celebrating God's grace with all people. We support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners.



8:30 a.m. only

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Matthew Benkert

11 a.m. only

CHORAL ANTHEM

Children of the Heavenly Father

James Melby

*OFFERTORY HYMN

Praise and Thanks and Adoration



1 Praise and thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, Son of God, to you we give,
2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing, com - fort me in pain and strife;



for you chose to serve cre - a - tion, died that sin - ers all might live.
through my laugh - ter and my weep - ing, lift me to a no - bler life.



Dear Lord Je - sus, guide my way; faith - ful let me day by day
Draw my fer - vent love to you; con - stant hope and faith re - new



fol - low where your steps are lead - ing, find ad - ven - ture, joys ex - ceed - ing!
in your birth, your life and pas - sion, in your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, and there are bar lines between the first and second measures of each staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.


The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

P: 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:



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

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

P: You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

P: That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete. Mvskoke, the language of the Muscogee Creek Nation, is provided on the next page.

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on Earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

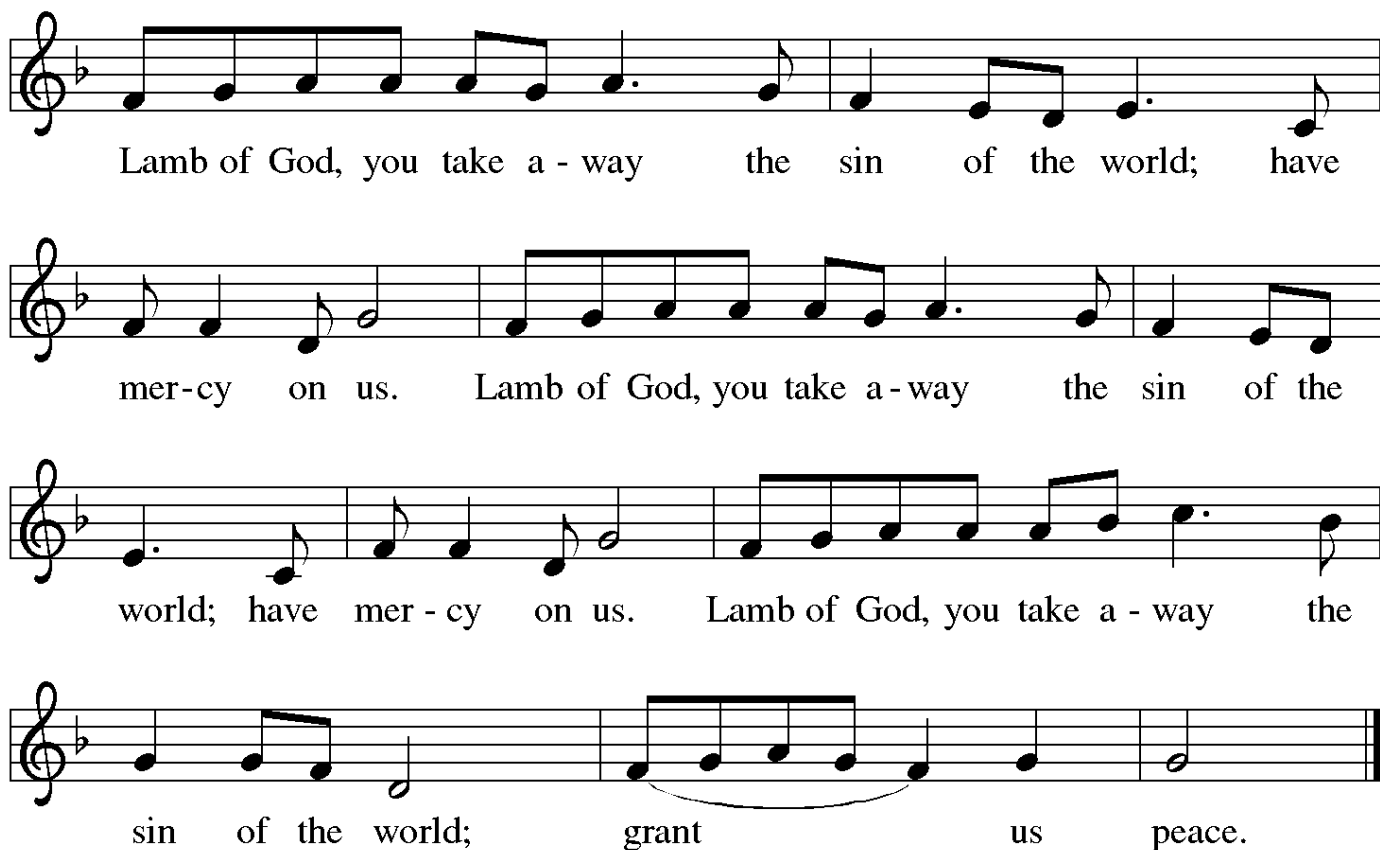
Pu' rke hvlwe liketskat,
ce hocefkv t vcakekvs.
Cem ohmekketvt vlvkekvs.
Mimv hvlwe nake kometske
momat etvpomet yvmv
ekvnnv oh momekvs.
Nettv vrahkv tvkliken
mucv-nettvn pu' mvs.
Momet pum ahuervn es pum
wikvs, vhuericayat es em
wikakeyat, etvpomen.
Nake pu naorkepuece taye
eskerretv 'sep oh ahyetskvs;
momis holwakat a sepu' ssicvs.
Ohmekketvt, yekcetvt, momen
racketvt cenake emunkvt omekv.
Emen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.

We believe that God is our host and that all people are welcome to this feast of grace, community, and forgiveness. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive bread or gluten-free wafer and wine in a common chalice or pink wine and red grape juice in individual cups. If you wish to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

AGNUS DEI



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

I Love to Tell the Story

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911
Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-press them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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*EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

***BENEDICTION**

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Go My Children, with My Blessing

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



- 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 HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*We depart in peace to continue our worship
in lives of witness to Christ's love
in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

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Today's readings are selected from
A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year A
by Wilda C. Gafney.

The texts for the scripture readings are from the
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition,
emendations are provided by
the pastoral staff of St. Thomas.

At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas

Sunday September 10

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Gather Bible Study

11 a.m. Worship

4 p.m. Pie with the Pastors

Monday September 11

10 a.m. Worship at Redbud Hills

1 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study

7 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting

Tuesday September 12

6 p.m. Word in the Woods

6:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

7 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday September 13

5:15 p.m. Christian Education

Committee Meeting

Thursday September 14

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sunday September 17

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Worship

12:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Condolences

The St. Thomas community offers condolences to Amy Bartleson Balcam on the death of her brother-in-law, Scott, which occurred on September 6, 2023. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Limited Office Hours this week

Erica will be out of the office on
Wednesday, September 13.

Pastor Adrienne and Pastor Lecia will both
be out of the office on Thursday, September 14.

Announcements

Sunday School Starts Today!

Connect with other people while growing in faith. Sunday School meets most Sundays from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

- Godly Play for ages 4 through kindergarten meets in the room next to the Nursery.
- Lower Elementary for first through third grades meets in room 16/17.
- Upper Elementary for fourth through sixth grades meets in room 12.
- Confirmation for seventh and eighth grade students meets in room 13.
- High School students meet in the Youth Room. Today they will go to Needmore Coffee for coffee and conversation.
- Adults gather in the Conference Room to start a three-week session on Criminal Justice and the Church.

Parents, please fill out a student information form for your child(ren) or youth (see QR code on the right).



Pie with the Pastors Today

The congregation at St. Thomas exists because of the dedication of its members and associate members, people who shape the congregation and its future, and support the congregation's ministries by volunteering their time, supporting the congregation financially, and directing the congregation's future at official meetings. Are you ready to take a next step and become a member of St. Thomas? Are you interested in learning more about the congregation or its pastors? Join Pastor Adrienne and Pastor Lecia for pie and conversation **today at 4 p.m.** in Community Hall. The pastors will share more about their stories and journeys, and answer any questions you have about the congregation, and there will be homemade pie!

Word in the Woods

Join in worshipping God and delighting in creation! Meet at Griffy Lake boathouse for a 1.5-mile hike which closes with Holy Communion. We will gather on **Tuesday, September 12 at 6 p.m.** Please let Pastor Lecia know if you plan to join us!

How about a trip to IU's Eskenazi Art Museum?

On **Wednesday, September 13**, Cherokee artist Bryan Waytula will give a talk on his artistic practice at the Eskenazi Museum of Art on the IU-Bloomington campus. There's an opening reception at 12 p.m. From 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. will be the artist talk and discussion. Then, at 2 p.m. another reception, and from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Waytula will lead a tour of contemporary Indigenous artworks in the Eskenazi Museum of Art's collection. If you're interested in going, please sign up on the clipboard at the Welcome Desk—we'll figure out rides when we see how many people sign up. This free event is co-sponsored by the Eskenazi Museum of Art and IU's First Nations Center.

LuMin Lunches

Connect with students and show that you care by helping provide lunches for LuMin students! In response to student needs, this year we will offer a pack-your-own brown bag lunch once a month (generally the third Sunday of each month). There are three ways you can help. Volunteers are needed to provide 12 individually packaged items (either pre-packaged or bagged at home). Please include the package with the nutrition information, or an

ingredient list for homemade items. **Another volunteer is needed to host the lunch-making in the library from 9:30 to 10 a.m. and 12 to 12:30 p.m.** Others are invited to stop by for conversation with students. **The first lunch will be next Sunday, September 17.** Please sign up at the welcome desk to bring an item or host the lunch. Items can be dropped off anytime the week prior or by 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

We need your friendly, welcoming face at the Spencer Pride Festival!

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a St. Thomas table at the Spencer Pride Festival in downtown Spencer on **Saturday, October 7.** We need 2-3 volunteers each for 3 shifts: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (set-up and host), 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (host), and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. (host and tear-down). We welcome larger family and friend groups, but please be aware that space at the table (and under the tent) is limited to 4 chairs. Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Movie Screening of *Reel Injun*

The Mission Committee invites you to a movie night on **Tuesday, September 19 at 7 p.m.** to watch *Reel Injun*, a film by Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond, that traces how movies depict indigenous people from the silent film era to today. It runs about 90 minutes, with clips from hundreds of classic and recent Hollywood movies and candid interviews with celebrated Native and non-Native film celebrities, activists, film critics, and historians. How has the cinematic image of “the Injun” influenced the world’s understanding – and misunderstanding – of indigenous peoples? We hope you’ll stick around afterwards for a discussion about Hollywood and media representation of indigenous peoples. Questions? Talk with Chris Ogan.

Dinners for Six – food, laughs, and stories!

Dinners for Six is exactly what it sounds like – a chance to gather with five other people to share a meal and conversation. Every three months, participants will be split into groups of six who will plan their own meal together. You could meet for dinner, lunch, or brunch. You could have a potluck, have one person cook a meal, or get takeout. You

could meet on a weeknight, after worship, or on Saturday morning. This program is intended to be informal and flexible – you can do what works best for your group of six! Then, in three months, you will be connected with a different group. You can join at any time or take a break when needed. Sign up at the Welcome Desk. Please contact Larry Moore with questions via email at lkmoore1956@gmail.com or 317-777-1074. Groups will be formed for a first meal together at the beginning of October.

Prayers for those with health and safety concerns

Elif Ogan, Roger Sasse, Paula Ionescu, Deborah O'Brien, Mike Ost, Bob Osborn, Andrew Halvorson, Doug Bauder, Yvonne Leber, Evelyn Niemeyer, Jacky Harner, Keri Smith, Annelize, Barbara Peterson, Holly, Michelle, Shawna, Debra, Tom Strentz, Kathy Luttrell, Benjamin Smith, and Steve Caudill.

Contact the church office for inclusion in this list of concerns and to be included in the Sunday prayers.

A separate, confidential prayer chain is also available. Contact **Susan Colston** at skcolston@aol.com to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

**The altar flowers this week are given by
Lynn and Ute Coyne
in celebration of their 52nd wedding anniversary.**

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Care: Shirley Minge, Jennifer Garl, Haley Hatton

Bread & Wine: Sacha Arterberry

A/V Tech: Johnathan Frank

8:30 a.m. Service

Assisting Minister: Allison Ward

Lectors: Kent & Barb Unger

Ushers: Lynn & Ute Coyne

Communion Steward: Kent Unger

Greeters: Mary Sasse, Jim Ward

Council Coordinator: Randy Nye

11 a.m. Service

Assisting Minister: Amanda Ghaffarian

Lectors: Eliot & Pamela Smith

Acolyte: Hope Meier

Lord's Prayer Leader: Lucy Meier

Ushers: Dean Arnold, Kaye Hill

Communion Steward: Kathleen Boggess

Greeters: Tim & Jennifer Garl

Council Coordinator: Kaye Hill

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
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Partners in ministry with

Lutheran Church of the Living Waters

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Sister Parish

Iglesia Santo Domingo
de Guzman, Chichipate
Parish of San Pedro, El Estor,
Izabal, Guatemala

In covenant with

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Kathryn Davidson
Adult Choir Director
choir@stlconline.org

Melissa de Graaf
Children's Choir Director

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU
are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives,
shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**