

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

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.

Today's worship service is printed in this bulletin; the hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) found under the seat in front of you. Places to stand are marked with * and to respond are indicated with bold type. Please sit, stand, and move as you need to be comfortable. Use a blue chair with arms or move orange chairs to accommodate mobility needs. Assisted hearing devices and large-print worship aids are available from an ushers.

Our youngest worshipers may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the worship space 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.

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.

Gifts placed in the offering plate during the worship service contribute to this mission. 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.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of our God, + Holy One and Holy Three.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Have mercy, O God.

**C: We confess our action and inaction which has muted the singing of the cosmos. We have polluted the air, the water, and the earth. We have failed to treat each of these, and all of creation, as neighbor. You called us as stewards of your good creation, and too often we have neglected the earth's needs. We have withheld forgiveness from one another. We have avoided sorrow. We have kept silent in the face of pain. We confess our fear of death, our doubt in your resurrection. In your mercy, rekindle the song of the universe, and raise us up to newness of life to join in the chorus of creation that blesses your holy name.
Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, forgives your sin, loves you in your weakness, bears your burdens and your fears, and rejoices in your worship. Blessed be God who created the world in splendor and called it good.

C: Blessed be God forever.

*ENTRANCE HYMN

All Creatures, Worship God Most High

ELW#835



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

*GREETING

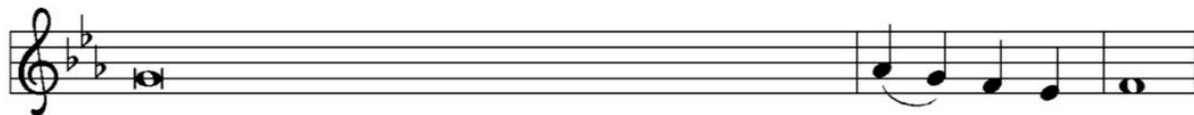
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*KYRIE



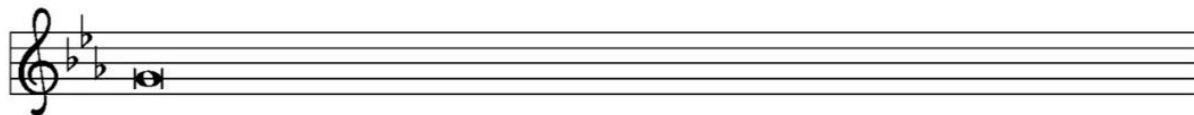
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



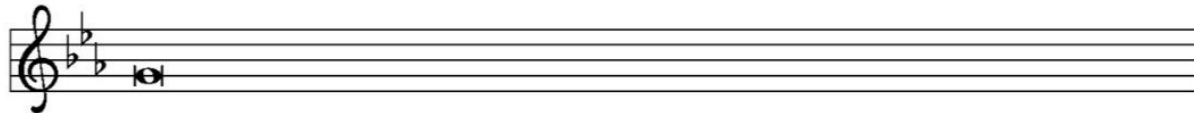
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



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



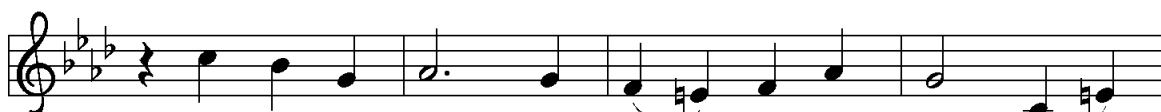
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



Refrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, you call us to embrace both you and the children of this world with unconditional love. Give us grace to discern what your love demands of us, that, being faithful in things both great and small, we may serve you with an undivided heart, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

+WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Lecia Beck

FIRST READING

Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,

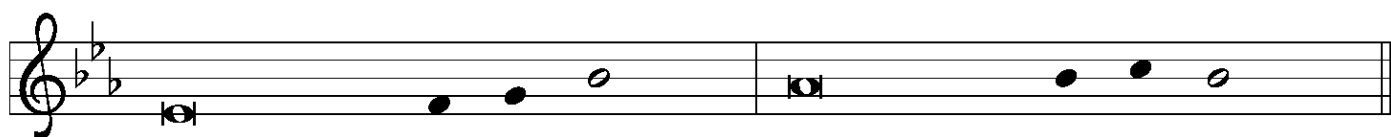
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the
shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 113



Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants ^l of
the Lord;

praise the name ¹ of the Lord.

**Let the name of the Lord be blessed,
from this time forth for- evermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its going down

let the name of the Lord be praised.

**The Lord is high a- | bove all nations;
God's glory a- | bove the heavens.**

Who is like the | Lord our God,
who sits en- | throned on high,

**but stoops | to behold
the heavens | and the earth?**

The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust

and lifts up the poor from the ashes,
**enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**

The Lord makes the woman of a childless house

to be a joyful mother of children.

Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

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

Repeat alleluia

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

***HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 16:1-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned

him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW#655

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, turn our attention to the gifts of the natural world and make us careful stewards of the Earth. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy One, embolden all those who pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Inspire them toward creative and effective solutions. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones especially Iann, Judy, Kaye, Gloria, Jonathan, Lyman, John, Lauren, Leslie, Lynn, Dallis, Doug, Yvonne, Kent, and Mark. Wrap them in your tender loving arms, and prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints especially Matthew and all who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We entrust these prayers to you, O God,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer
and friend.

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.*

*An offering is collected as a grateful response for all of God's gifts. Gifts support St. Thomas's mission of living, sharing, and celebrating God's grace with all people. A portion of our offerings support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners. **You may place gifts in the offering plate as it reaches you or give on our website, stlconline.org (the QR code will direct you).***



8:30 a.m. only

CHORAL ANTHEM

Lord, I Trust Thee

George Frideric Handel

11 a.m. only

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANTHEM

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

M. Crocker, J. Houston, and S. Lighthelm

*OFFERTORY HYMN

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

ELW#681

verse 1 only



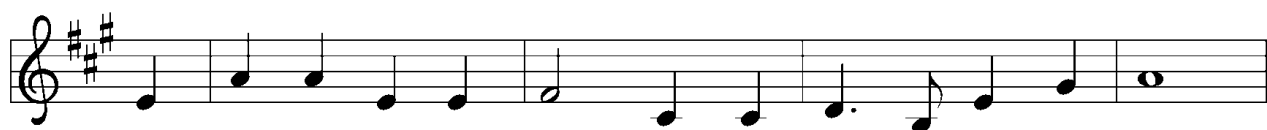
- 1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
- 2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
- 3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Refrain



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

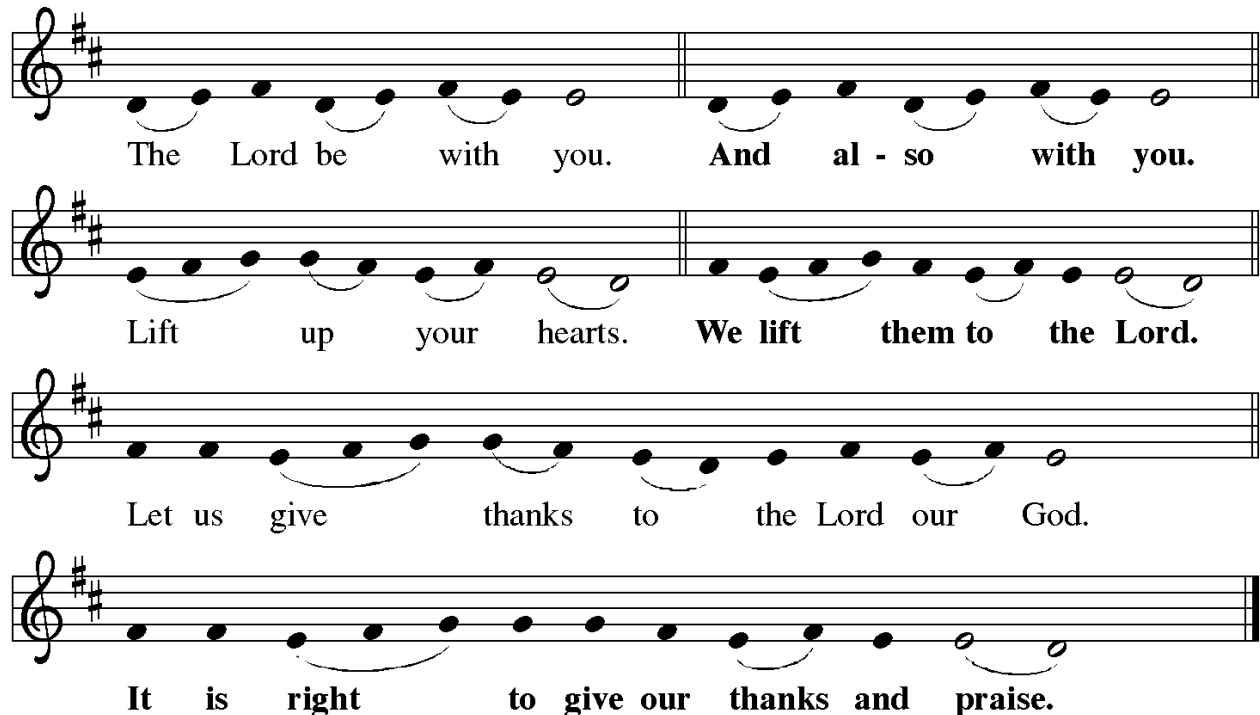
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs. 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 - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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: O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

P: O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

P: We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

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: Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

P: O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

P: Amen, and amen.

C: Amen, and amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete. Spanish 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.**

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre.

Venga tu reino.

Hágase tu voluntad

en la tierra como en el cielo.

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.

Perdona nuestras ofensas

como también nosotros

perdonamos a los

que nos ofenden.

No nos dejes caer en tentación

y líbranos del mal.

Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es

el poder y tuya es la gloria,

ahora y siempre. Amén.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

All Depends on Our Possessing

ELW#589

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding text line. The lyrics are in English and are a translation of a German hymn. The music is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm and a clear melodic line. The lyrics are: 1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and 2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y 3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a - 4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing 5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part. joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine. new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled. hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day. soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place. They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a - not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart. guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine. I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build. be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way. way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and
2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y
3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -
4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing
5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry

con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.
new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.
hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place.

They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are
God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly
To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing
I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -

not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build.
be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way.
way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW#685

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, each corresponding to a different voice part. The first line of lyrics is: '1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;'. The second line is: '2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;'. The third line is: '3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;'. The fourth line is: '4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;'. The music consists of two systems of staves. The first system has four staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and the second system has four staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The lyrics are placed between the staves of the first system.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

***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. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

***BENEDICTION**

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

ELW#793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

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 the Revised Common Lectionary. 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.

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At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas

Sunday September 21

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Adult Forum: Climate
Ambassador Training

11 a.m. Worship

12:15 p.m. Council Meeting

Monday September 22

1 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday September 24

7 p.m. St. Thomas Book Read

Thursday September 25

5:30 p.m. Brown Bag Choir Dinner

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Saturday September 27

10 a.m. Property Committee Work Day

10 a.m. Lunch Packing

Sunday September 28

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Adult Forum: Climate
Ambassador Training

11 a.m. Worship

12:30 p.m. High School Youth Lunch

4 p.m. Pie with the Pastors

Next Steps

Looking for a way to get involved at STLC? Try this next step:

Acolytes

Assist the pastors and assisting minister throughout the service by lighting and extinguishing candles, and helping with communion. This role is best for children and tweens in grades 2-8.

Sign up on the bulletin board next to the west bathrooms if you have been trained for this role. Contact the church office if you are interested in receiving training.

parishadmin@stlconline.org

St. Thomas at Spencer Pride, Saturday, October 4

Sign up on the Welcome Desk to host the St. Thomas table at this great community celebration around the downtown square in Spencer. If you enjoy meeting people and telling them about our congregation, sign up for a three-hour shift (a bit longer than the shifts at Bloomington Pride, but still under a shady tent in comfy chairs and with cooler temps).

Packing Lunches for the Hungry Folks

We will gather again on Saturday, September 27 at 10 a.m., to pack 110 lunches for the hungry folks who gather each Sunday for a free breakfast at First Christian Church. It usually takes just an hour with lots of hands and smiles. Children are always welcome to help. Come be a part of the blessing St. Thomas sends out into our community. Home baked cookies or bars are also needed. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk for attending the packing event and for bakers. For more information, contact Allison Ward.

Celebrating Creation and Blessing Pets

2025 marks the 800th anniversary of St. Francis's composition of "Canticle of Creation," which, in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is hymn 835. The hymn celebrates all aspects of creation – creatures, planets, elements, even death. We'll celebrate the hymn, and, with it, all of creation, at the end of September and the beginning of October. **On Sunday, October 5 at the 11 a.m. service**, well-behaved pets or their photos are welcome to worship with us and receive a blessing.

Pie with the Pastors

Have you been worshiping at St. Thomas and wondering what the next step might be? If you've been curious about becoming a member—or just want to get to know the pastors and learn more about the life of the congregation—we'd love to invite you to Pie with the Pastors this **Sunday, September 28 at 4 p.m. in Community Hall**. This is a relaxed and friendly gathering with *actual pie* and good conversation. Pastor Adrienne and Pastor Lecia will be there to share a bit about what membership at St. Thomas means and to hear your stories, questions, and hopes. Whether you're ready to take that step or still exploring, you are already part of the life of St. Thomas just by being here. The ministries of this church are for everyone—but becoming a member is a way to help shape where we're headed, together. New members will be received in worship on November 9.

Prayers for those with health and safety concerns

Iann Russell, Judy Louise, Kaye Hill, Gloria Hitchcock, Jonathan Miller, Lyman Hitchcock, John Kinzer, Lauren Halvorson, Leslie Main, Lynn Weddle, Dallis Fox-Nagal, Doug Bauder, Yvonne Leber, Kent Unger, and Mark Wilkes.

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 Johnathan Risner & Gretchen Moehlmann
in honor of Arno's 17th birthday.

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Care: Charlene Braun, Jennifer Garl,
Haley Hatton

Bread & Wine: Jaydene Laros

Coffee Crew: Stephanie Abel, Matt Meier

Flower Guild: Gail Seegert

Prayer Writer: Moriah Reichert

A/V Tech: Johnathan Frank

8:30 a.m. Service

Assisting Minister: Carolyn Sowinski

Lectors: Eliot Smith, Pamela Smith

Ushers: Ian Bensberg, Lynn Coyne

Communion Steward: David Ellies

Greeters: Mike & Jaydene Laros

Council Coordinator: Johnathan Frank

11 a.m. Service

Assisting Minister: Mary Thomason-Smith

Lectors: Janine Drake, Nathalie Drake

Acolyte: Lucy Meier

Lord's Prayer Leader: Lucy Meier

Ushers: Craig & Kathy McDonald

Communion Steward: Dean Arnold

Greeters: Dean Arnold, Gail Seegert

Council Coordinator: Ashley Ahlbrand

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Phone: (812) 332-5252
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Matthew Benkert
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Ben Wegner
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!**