

All Saints Lutheran Church

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 28, 2025

The Management of God's Stewards

Matthew 6:24-34 and Galatians 5:25-6:10

A "steward" is one who has been given something to manage. Money or "mammon" (money/possessions) is a gift from God. However, these gifts can be abused when we serve the gift rather than the giver (Matthew 6:24-34). When we idolize money and possessions, they tend to take over our lives. This leads to worrying and fretting as we spend all our time and effort keeping or increasing our mammon. The answer to this problem is to look to the giver. God promises His care and provision; therefore we are set free from slavery to mammon, set free to be generous with His gifts. What does God call us to do with our mammon? We are to bear one another's burdens in the church and share with the one who teaches God's Word. We are to do good to everyone, especially those of the household of faith (Galatians 5:25-6:10). In this Christ has gone before us. He gave His all for us and bore our burdens all the way to the cross!

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Charlotte, NC 28277
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Rev. Jeffrey Ware, Pastor
Joshua Pauling, Vicar
Dr. Patricia Parker, Director of Music**

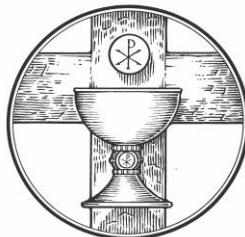
Communion at All Saints

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. It is important, therefore, that those who come to the Lord's Table trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Scripture also teaches that Holy Communion is a confession of faith. Those who receive the sacrament together show forth their unity in Christ, that is, a unity of heart and mind accomplished when all who commune together believe the same doctrine and are at peace with one another.

Scripture teaches that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and that Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, we, along with the historic Christian church, practice *Closed Communion*. Any who are not communicant members of All Saints, or another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward during communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest and bow your head, and the pastor will give you a blessing; and know that we would love to share more with you about our teaching and practice.

Prayers of preparation and thanksgiving for receiving the Lord's Supper are found in the LSB hymnal on p. 308.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; John 17:20–23; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.





Divine Service 3

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P 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.

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

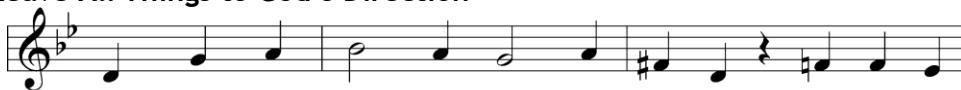
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C 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.

P 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.
C Amen.

719 | Leave All Things to God's Direction



1 I leave all things to God's di - rec - tion; He loves me
 2 God knows what must be done to save me; His love for
 3 My God de - sires the soul's sal - va - tion; My soul He,
 4 My God has all things in His keep - ing; He is the



both in joy and woe. His will is good, sure His af -
 me will nev - er cease. Up - on His hands He did en -
 too, de - sires to save. There - fore with Chris - tian res - ig -
 ev - er faith - ful friend. He gives me laugh - ter af - ter



fec - tion; His ten - der love is true, I know. My for - tress
 grave me With pur - est gold of lov - ing grace. His will su -
 na - tion All earth - ly trou - bles I will brave. His will be
 weep - ing, And all His ways in bless - ings end. His love en -



and my rock is He: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.
 preme must ev - er be: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.
 done e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.
 dures e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.

Text: Salomo Franck, 1659–1725; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: Georg Neumark, 1621–81
 Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit

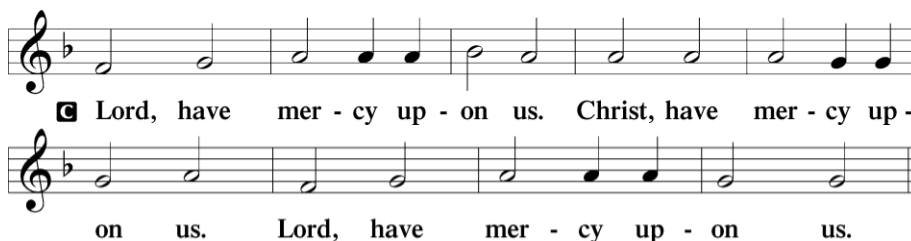
Psalm 86:4, 6, 15a, 16; antiphon: vv. 1a, 2b, 3



Incline your ear, O LORD, and | answer me,*
 save your servant, who trusts in you—you | are my God.
 Be gracious to me, | O Lord,*
 for to you do I cry | all the day.
Gladden the soul of your | servant,*
for to you, O Lord, do I lift | up my soul.
 Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*
 listen to my | plea for grace.
**But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious;*
 turn to me and be gra - | cious to me;**

give your strength to your | servant,*
 and save the son of your maid- | servant.
 Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
 and to the Holy | Spirit;
 as it was in the be- | ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
 Incline your ear, O LORD, and | answer me,*
 save your servant, who trusts in you—you | are my God.
 Be gracious to me, | O Lord,*
 for to you do I cry | all the day.

Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
 men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir-it.
P Let us pray.

P O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 17:8–16

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], ⁹“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” ¹¹And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” ¹³And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” ¹⁵And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 118:8–9



It is better to take refuge | in the LORD*
than to | trust in man.

**It is better to take refuge | in the LORD*
than to trust in | princes.**

Epistle

Galatians 5:25—6:10

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵For each will have to bear his own load.

⁶One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Psalm 95:1



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;*

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!

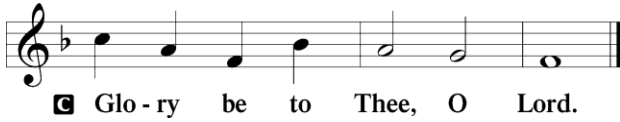


C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:24–34

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



²⁴[Jesus said:] “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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.**

760 What God Ordains Is Always Good



1 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His will is
 2 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He nev - er
 3 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His lov - ing
 4 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He is my



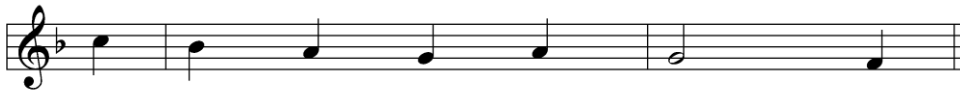
just and ho - ly. As He di - rects my life for me,
 will de - ceive me; He leads me in His righ - teous way,
 thought at - tends me; No poi - son can be in the cup
 friend and Fa - ther; He suf - fers naught to do me harm



I fol - low meek and low - ly. My God in - deed
 And nev - er will He leave me. I take con - tent
 That my phy - si - cian sends me. My God is true;
 Though man - y storms may gath - er. Now I may know



In ev - 'ry need Knows well how He will shield me;
 What He has sent; His hand that sends me sad - ness
 Each morn - ing new I trust His grace un - end - ing,
 Both joy and woe; Some - day I shall see clear - ly



To Him, then, I will yield me.
 Will turn my tears to glad - ness.
 My life to Him com - mend - ing.
 That He has loved me dear - ly.

5 What God ordains is always good:

Though I the cup am drinking
 Which savors now of bitterness,
 I take it without shrinking.

For after grief
 God gives relief,
 My heart with comfort filling
 And all my sorrow stilling.

6 What God ordains is always good:

This truth remains unshaken.
 Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
 I shall not be forsaken.

I fear no harm,
 For with His arm
 He shall embrace and shield me;
 So to my God I yield me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Severus Gastorius, 1646–82, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

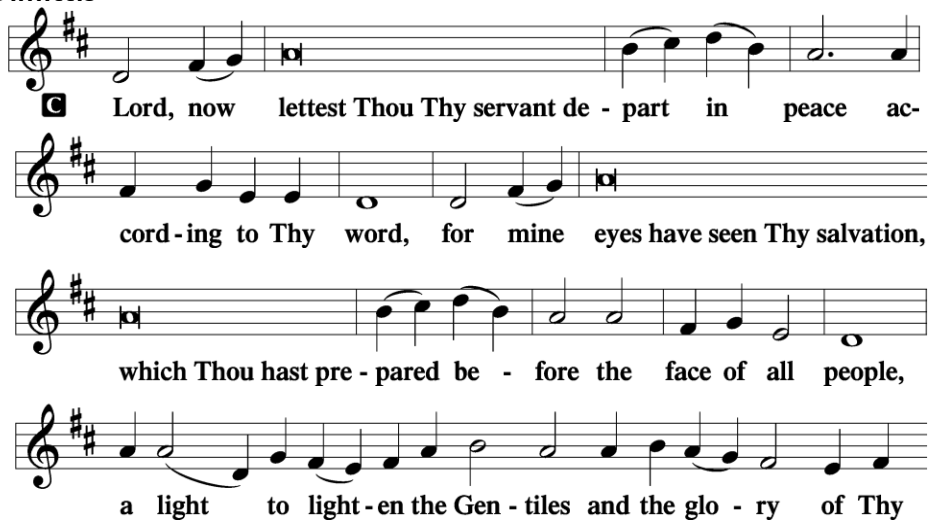
Offertory



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

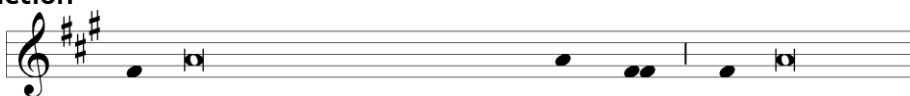


A Bless we the Lord.

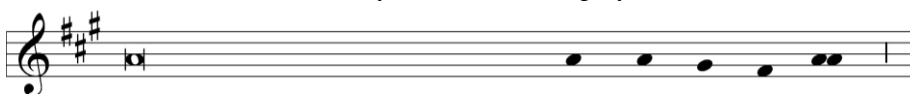


G Thanks be to God.

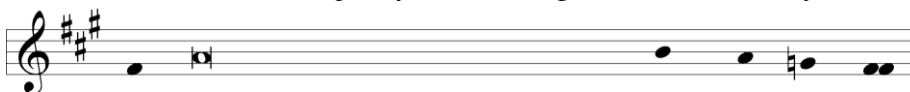
Benediction



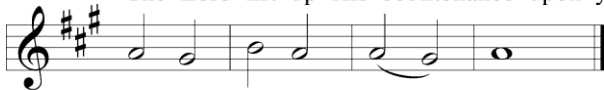
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



G A-men, a-men, a - men.

938 In Peace and Joy I Now Depart



1 In peace and joy I now de-part Since God so wills it.
2 Christ Je - sus brought this gift to me, My faith - ful Sav - ior,
3 You sent the peo - ple of the earth Their great sal - va - tion;
4 Christ is the hope and sav - ing light Of those in blind - ness;



Se - rene and con - fi - dent my heart; Still - ness fills it.
Whom You have made my eyes to see By Your fa - vor.
Your in - vi - ta - tion sum - mons forth Ev - 'ry na - tion
He guides and com-forts those in night By His kind - ness.



For the Lord has prom-ised me That death is but a slum - ber.
Now I know He is my life, My friend when I am dy - ing.
By Your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, In ev - 'ry place re - sound-ing.
For Your peo - ple Is - ra - el In Him find joy and glo - ry.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 1): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt.; (sts. 2–4): tr. Christian Worship, 1993, alt.

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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