



When [Jesus] noticed
how the guests chose
the places of honor,
he told them a parable.

Luke 14:7, NRSV



First Lutheran Church

2808 South Avenue West

12th Sunday in Pentecost
August 31, 2025

First Lutheran Church

Missoula, MT

12th Sunday in Pentecost

August 31, 2025

Celebrating 125 years of God's Grace

"His Story is our Future!"

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn LSB 902

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; Our hearts in
2 Un - seal our lips to sing Your praise In end - less
3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry, "O ho - ly,
△ 4 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly



true de - vo - tion bow. Your Spir - it send with
hymns through all our days. In - crease our faith and
ho - ly Lord Most High!" And in the light of
Spir - it, Three in One! To You, O bless - ed



light di - vine, And let Your truth with - in us shine.
light our minds; And set us free from doubt that blinds.
that blest place We then shall see You face to face.
Trin - i - ty, Be praise through - out e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Lutherisch Hand-Büchlein, 1648, Altenburg; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Cantionale Germanicum, 1628, Gochsheim
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 149:1-4

P Praise the LORD! Sing to the Lord a new song,

C His praise in the assembly of the godly!

P Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

C let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

P Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with
tambourine and lyre!

C For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with
salvation.

Confession and Absolution

P It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on confession in Luther's catechism instructs us with these words: "Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven." Humble yourselves, then, before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature, I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all of my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

WORD

Introit

Psalm 75:1–2, 6, 9; antiphon: v. 7

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

C **We give thanks to You, O God; we give thanks, for Your name is near.
We recount Your wondrous deeds.**

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

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

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

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

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

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

Collect

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

G Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 25:2-10

It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.
As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
Take away the dross from the silver,
and the smith has material for a vessel;
take away the wicked from the presence of the king,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.
Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.
What your eyes have seen
do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,
lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Hebrews 13:1-17

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

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

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Verse

P Alleluia. Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 14:1-14

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

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

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move

up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

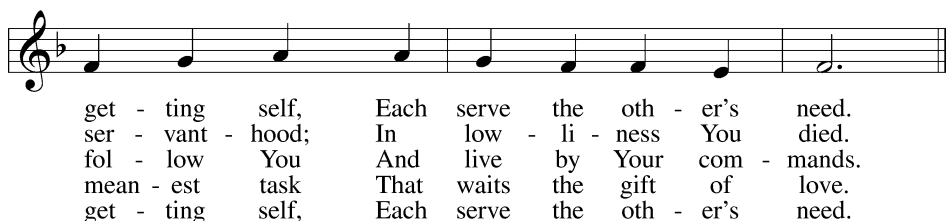
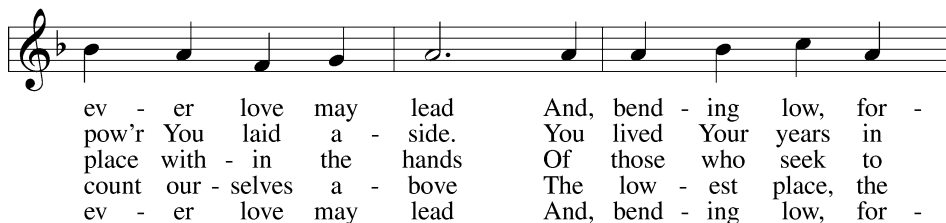
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

Sermon Hymn LSB 857

Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way



1	Lord,	help	us	walk	Your	ser	-	vant	way	Wher	-
2	You	came	to	earth,	O	Christ,		as	Lord,	But	
3	No	gold	-	en	scep	-	ter	but	a	towel	
4	You	bid	us	bend	our	hu	-	man	pride	Nor	
5	Lord,	help	us	walk	Your	ser	-	vant	way	Wher	-



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007

Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1562, London

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Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Rev. David Johnson

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P God, our Savior, wants all people to come to know the truth. Let us pray for ourselves and for the church everywhere, that we may persevere in grace, and for all people, that we may share with them the joy we have in the unity of Christ.

For the church, the gathering of God's people; for the clergy of the church that the Holy Spirit confirm them in their apostolic mission; for all Christians, that persevering in grace, we may proclaim the kingdom of heaven in our lives, let us pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all public servants, that they zealously promote justice and the common good; for industrial workers, that their productivity provide blessing for all; for favorable weather, that we may give thanks for a good harvest, let us pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the homeless and the hungry; for the physically and mentally ill and the aged and infirm, that we cherish Christ in them and surround them with our care, [*especially . . .*], and that each of us would be graced with holy humility that we may find our joy in humble service in Jesus' name in every situation, let us pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of our missionaries, medical personnel, and all Christian aid workers, that their work be unhindered and be a continuing source of blessing in Jesus' name, let us pray:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ still inspires us, and also for this holy assembly here and now, that sealed with the promised Spirit, we may witness to the fullness of God's love, let us pray:

C **Be merciful, Lord God, and hear our prayers; grant Your Holy Spirit to plead for us and guide Your church into all truth and holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn LSB 707

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, But keep my con-science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re-store Thy wan-d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Please complete the "Friendship Pads" found at the inside aisle holder in each pew and pass it to the others in your row. We especially ask our visitors and guests to share their information with us, so we can stay in touch!

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
- C** Thanks be to God.

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