



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

September 21st, 2025

15th Sunday after Pentecost

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A Service of Worship and Praise

-We Gather as God's People to Worship Him-

OPENING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 377

It Is Well with My Soul

PLEASE STAND

Minister says: We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

-We Lift Up Our Hands and Voices to God-

We sing:

In Moments Like These

In moments like these I sing out a song,
I sing out a love song to Jesus.
In moments like these I lift up my hands,
I lift up my hands to the Lord.

Singing, "I love you Lord," singing, "I love you Lord;"
Singing, "I love you Lord. I love you."

-We Prepare Our Hearts-

M: We stand here today before our Lord and Maker. He has created us to love Him and serve one another. But we have separated ourselves from Him with our sins. Let us be honest and confess to Him our sins.

C: Merciful Father, I confess that I am a sinner. I make no excuses. I have sinned against you by things I have done and the things I have not done. But I know that Jesus died for me. I stand before you in need of, and trusting in, your forgiveness.

We sing:

I Need Thee Every Hour

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford.

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises In me fulfill.

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

M: It is my duty and privilege as a called servant of God to announce to you that you are forgiven. You have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ and stand before Him forgiven of all your sins, His child, and an heir of eternal life. Let's thank Him for His amazing grace.

We sing:

He Looked Beyond My Fault

Amazing grace shall always be my song of praise,
For it was grace that bought my liberty.

I do not know just why Christ came to love me so,
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

I shall forever lift mine eyes to Calvary,
To view the cross where Jesus died for me;

How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul,
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

BE SEATED

-We Listen to God's Word-

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

¹⁰ Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.
This too is meaningless.

¹¹ As goods increase,
so do those who consume them.
And what benefit are they to the owners
except to feast their eyes on them?

¹² The sleep of a laborer is sweet,
whether they eat little or much,
but as for the rich, their abundance
permits them no sleep.

¹³ I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:

wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,
¹⁴ or wealth lost through some misfortune,
so that when they have children
there is nothing left for them to inherit.

¹⁵ Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,
and as everyone comes, so they depart.
They take nothing from their toil
that they can carry in their hands.

¹⁶ This too is a grievous evil:

As everyone comes, so they depart,
and what do they gain,
since they toil for the wind?
¹⁷ All their days they eat in darkness,
with great frustration, affliction and anger.

¹⁸ This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. ¹⁹ Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions,

and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. ²⁰ They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

We sing:

Order My Steps (v1)

Order my steps in Your Word dear Lord,
Lead me, guide me, every day,
Send Your anointing, Father, I pray.
Order my steps in Your word.
Please, order my steps in Your word.

I want to walk worthy, My calling to fulfill.
Please order my steps, Lord, And I'll do Your blessed will,
The world is ever changing, but You are still the same.
If You order my steps, I'll praise Your name.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Bridle my tongue, let my words edify;
Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in Thy sight.
Take charge of my thoughts, both day and night.
Order my steps in Your word.
Please, order my steps in Your word.

I want to walk worthy, My calling to fulfill.
Please order my steps, Lord, And I'll do Your blessed will,
The world is ever changing, but You are still the same.
If You order my steps, I'll praise Your name.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 16:1-13

16 Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

³ "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— ⁴ I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

⁵ "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

⁶ "'Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied.

"The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.'

⁷ "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?'

"'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied.

"He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

⁸ "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

¹³ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christian Worship 353

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

SERMON

Greed Has No Bottom

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth.

I believe 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 is

seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there, 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.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Instrumental

PLEASE STAND

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

THE SACRAMENT

M: Our Lord has given us a holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper, we celebrate the gift of His redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim His death until He returns.

C: Now have come the salvation and the power and kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

We sing:

Awesome God

Our God is an awesome God.
He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love.
Our God is an awesome God.

Our God is an awesome God.
He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love.
Our God is an awesome God.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

BE SEATED

FOR ALL OF US: Paul instructed in I Cor. 11:28: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." Questions like these help us examine ourselves:

- Am I sorry for my sin?
- Do I trust that Jesus has lived and died to save me from my sin?
- Do I believe that Jesus's body and blood are truly present to assure me of forgiveness?
- Do I intend, with God's help, to live a more God pleasing life?

*WELS and ELS members may come and receive Christ's body and blood.
Proceed up the center aisle as directed by the ushers.*

FOR OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS: *You may find that we regard Holy Communion with much greater seriousness than most churches today. The Bible teaches that communion is, among other things, a public statement of intimate unity and spiritual agreement with a church's teachings. Therefore, if you are unaware or unclear about what we teach and believe, you will want to compare your own beliefs with ours before communing with us. We are eager to establish this fellowship with you and look forward to your inquiry on how to enter into fellowship! Pastor Kramer is happy and ready to speak with you!*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN**African-American Heritage Hymnal 252***Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross***THANKSGIVING HYMN***My Tribute*

How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me
Things so undeserved, Yet you give to prove Your love for me?
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.

To God be the glory, To God be the glory, To God be the glory
For the things He has done!

With His blood He has saved me,
With His pow'r He has raised me
To God be the glory For the things He has done!

Just let me live my life, Let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee;
And should I gain any praise, Let it go to Calvary.

With His blood He has saved me,
With His pow'r He has raised me
To God be the glory For the things He has done!

C: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in Your loving kindness you sent Your Son to share our humanity. We thank You that through Him You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that You will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve You day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. AMEN.

CLOSING HYMN**African-American Heritage Hymnal 567***Here I Am, Lord*

WELS National Online Teen Bible Study

The WELS National Online Teen Bible Study is an opportunity for teens across the country to digitally connect with each other around the Word.

The online Bible study is not intended to replace local ministry efforts but complement existing ministries like the WELS International Youth Rally and area WELS Youth Nights. The goals are:

1. To encourage greater spiritual growth during critical teen years.
2. To encourage greater relational connections with other WELS teens locally and across the country.

2025–2026 online Bible studies

During the 2025–2026 school year, the National Online Teen Bible Study will focus on the book of Judges. Dave Scharf, professor of theology at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., will lead this series of four online interactive Bible studies via Zoom. Lessons take place on Sundays at 6 p.m. (Central).

Please register separately for each Bible study date, and save the confirmation e-mail you receive from Zoom. We hope to see you there—bring a friend!

September 28 – “Generation Degeneration”

Judges 1:1-3:6

God gave the Promised Land to the Israelites under Joshua’s leadership. Then a new generation came along who turned away from God, starting a cycle for Israel that lasted centuries. However, God provided “saviors,” or judges, who saved the people from their enemies. This first lesson gives us a chance to look in the mirror as we see their example but also rejoice in the grace of God, who provided THE Savior we need!

November 9 – “A Smashing Salvation” (Deborah)

Judges 13-16

February 15 – “Strength Made Perfect in Weakness” (Gideon) *Judges 6-7*

March 29 – “Hey There, Delilah” (Samson)

Judges 13-16

Register for the [September](#) and [November](#) studies here:

<https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/discipleship/national-teen-bible-study/>

<u>Serving at Col.:</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Music	Karis, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers	Keith, Mike	Lee, Gary
Reader	Elijah	Edward, Jr.
Altar	Carol	
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments	Linda	Katherine
Cleaning	Quiana	Quiana
Mowing	Seth	Seth

CALENDAR

Wednesday	7:00 PM Online Bible Class meet.google.com/dpk-rmfe-atx
Thursday	10:30 AM, Timeless Grace, Carriere, MS
Thursday	12:00 PM, Confirmation Class, Picayune, MS
Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship
Oct 12	Council, Ladies Guild
Oct 25	Workday
Oct 26	Q3 Congregational Meeting

OFFERING	Total	Budget	%Budget	Projected
Last Week	\$2,101.00	\$2,710.40	77.5%	
September	\$4,510.00	\$11,745.08	38.4%	\$7,393.84
Qtr-to-Date	\$40,107.05	\$35,235.25	113.8%	\$45,951.36
Year-to-Date	\$116,015.07	\$140,941.00	82.3%	\$161,439.81



*"...give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
II Corinthians 9:7*

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 **CROWN OF LIFE**