

## **THE 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



The LORD watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**September 5, 2021**



**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Theme of Today's Readings: Our merciful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, does all things well.

Silent Prayer Before Worship: O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

# Welcome

## Opening Hymn, LSB 797 [TLH 26]

### "Praise the Almighty"



1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!  
3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er  
△ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and  
Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -  
Of Him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as  
va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in  
be - ing, to praise Him sole - ly, With hap - py



He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and  
hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in  
heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.  
Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.  
an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!



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

Text and tune: Public domain

## **Invocation/Call to Worship**

P We have come together this morning for a reason:

C **We are here to worship our God.**

P We worship in His holy name.

C **We worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

C **As much as we don't like to admit it or think about it, we are sinners. Our words betray us, as do our actions. Even our thoughts are far from pure. We come, Lord, as Your humble children, asking – even begging – that You forgive us, even though we are far less than deserving.**

P Our God is just and He is merciful. In His powerful grace, He listens to us when we bring Him our concerns, especially when we admit our sin-ful-ness. In the name of Jesus, and for His sake, He forgives us all, of all our sins. Live in this confidence, then, that you are forgiven, and can begin again, cleansed by His grace-filled love.

C **Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray:

C **LORD in Heaven, You know better than we do, that some of our days are not so wonderful. When such days come, remind us, we pray, that You are not about to let us down but instead will carry us through the worst of times as well as the best of times. We worship You this morning as the One God Who loves us and cares especially for those having difficult times. Amen!**

## **The First Reading, Isaiah 35:4-7 (NIV)**

Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **The Second Reading, Psalm 146 (NIV)**

Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them – He remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but He frustrates the ways of the wicked. The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord.

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading, Mark 7:24-37 (NIV)**

P The Gospel reading:

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet He could not keep His presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about Him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at His feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

"First let the children eat all they want," He told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "LORD," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Then He told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to Him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place His hand on him.

After He took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put His fingers into the man's ears. Then He spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more He did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were

overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to You, O Christ.**



### **A Statement of Faith**

We believe in God the Father,  
Creator of the heavens and the earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our LORD.  
He was born on Christmas, lived a short life of ministry,  
healed, served, and forgave sins of those near and far.  
He realized His goal to call us together as His family –  
around the table the night before He was crucified,  
and around the cross where He gave His life for ours.

He conquered the power of death – for Himself and for us.  
In His forever-life, He reigns as King with His Father in Glory.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
Who brings all these truths to us,  
Guiding us to gather as the Christian Church,  
Serving us as He comforts us with the forgiveness of our  
sins,  
And leading us in our service to our neighbors all around.  
Amen!

## Sermon Hymn, LSB 398 [TLH 59]

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,  
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!  
To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;  
All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,  
To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,  
To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.  
Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.  
His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A kingdom with - out end.

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## Sermon, "Who Are They???"

"The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but He frustrates the ways of the wicked." Psalm 146:9

**Offering:** You can give by sending your envelope to HCLC. You can give online from the Holy Cross homepage ([holycrossmpls.org](http://holycrossmpls.org)). Click on the blue button or directly via the Holy Cross online donation form. You can give to the General Fund, Building Fund, We Care, Synod or Trinity First. Donations are processed through faith-based Vanco. Payments are deposited directly into the Holy Cross bank account.

## Prayers

### The 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 (NIV)

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord turn His face toward you and T give you peace.

**C Amen.**



## Closing Hymn, LSB 524, TLH 364

### "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In  
 2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And  
 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,  
 calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the  
 shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.  
 hun - gry soul And to the wea - ry, rest.  
 trea - sury filled With bound - less stores of grace.

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## Announcements

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Thank You to Those Serving Today:**

September Altar Guild: Mary Lange  
September Deacon: Jim Likely  
Counter for today: Adam Horrmann  
Lector: Jean Anderson  
Organist: Julie Wright  
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Don Mulfinger  
Recorder: James Blomberg  
Ushers: Keith Lange & Tim Phelon  
Weed & Water: Kimberly Blomberg

*Thank  
you!*

## **Last Sunday**

The attendance on 8/29 was 43. The total offering was \$1,989.45 including \$281 to the Capital/Building Fund, \$75 to Trinity First, and \$50 to Synod.

## **Celebrations this Week**

Happy Birthday to Paul Brooks (9/7) and Angela Newfield (9/11).  
Happy Anniversary to Errol and Judy Sorenson.

## **The September Newsletter**

The newsletter was emailed or mailed to all congregational members. Extra paper copies are available on the back table.

## **Confirmation Sunday**

Confirmation Sunday will be September 19 during the 9:30 AM worship service with communion. Confirming their faith will be Katherine McConley and Matthew McConley, the daughter and son of Steve and Linda McConley.

## **LCMS Q & A**

Rev. Stefan Wismar, Executive Assistant to the District President, Minnesota South District of the LCMS will be here for a question-and-answer period after the service on Sunday, September 19. Please plan to be present that day.

## **Welcome Back**

We have received the transfer of Gloria Fearing from Christ Lutheran in Eagan. Welcome back to Holy Cross, Gloria!

## **Concrete Work**

The concrete work by the office entrance will begin after Labor Day. That entrance will not be available during construction.

## **First Aid Kits**

We have new First Aid Kits. There is one by the office entrance (above the defibrillator) and one on a shelf in the kitchen.

## **New Group**

The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus will begin using Holy Cross for their practices. They will be here on Tuesday evenings.

*Jesus Welcomes  
The Outsiders*