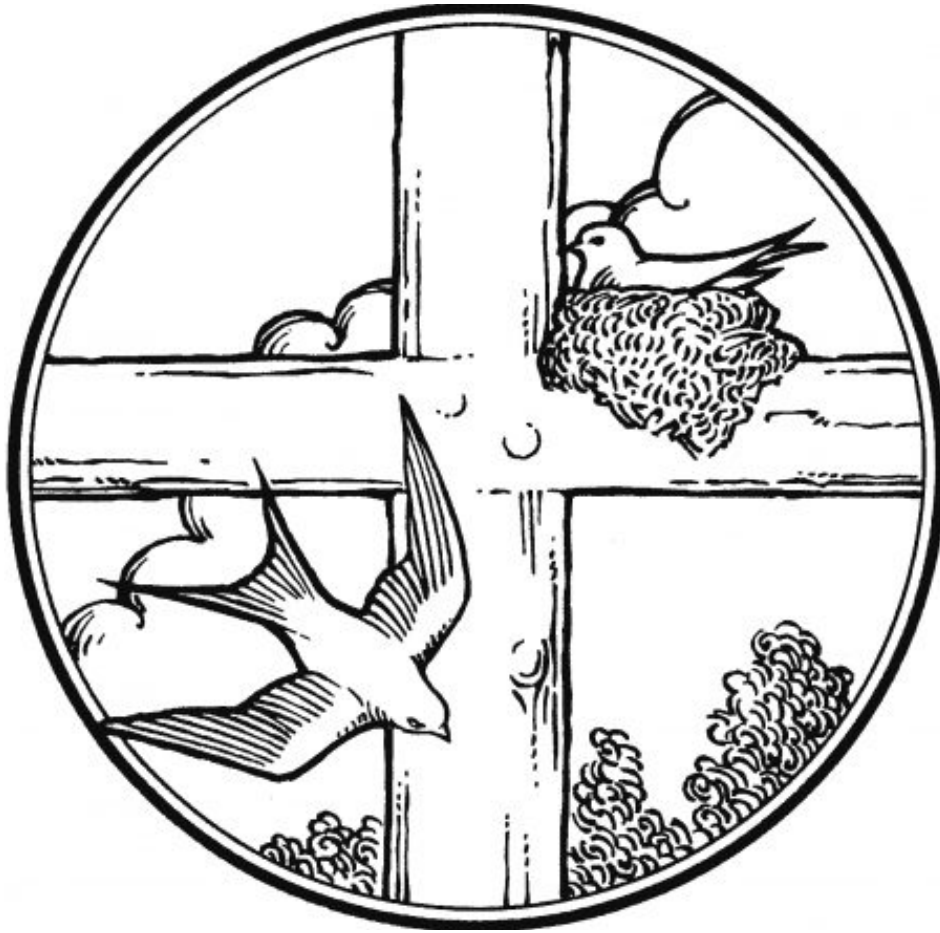


St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity
September 28, 2025



Opening Prayer

712 Seek Ye First (Children's Hymn)

712 Seek Ye First

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you!
Allelu, alleluia!

2 Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!

3 Man does not live by bread alone,
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord,
Allelu, alleluia!

Text: Karen Lafferty, 1948

Text: © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: Living Hope Lutheran Church no. 30497564

Invocation

Stand

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

Confession and Absolution

- 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.


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.

Gloria Patri




C Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



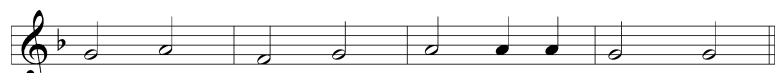
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Kyrie

LSB 186



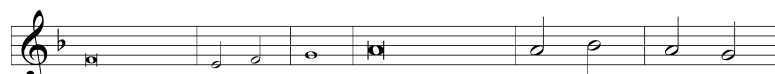
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



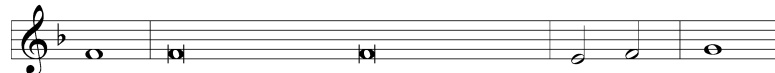
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** 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

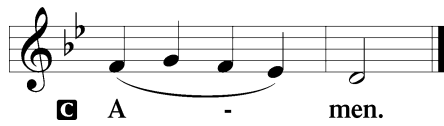
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

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.



Sit

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalms 146 (Read Responsively)

¹Praise | the LORD!*

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*

I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

³Put not your trust in | princes;*

in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.

⁴When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;*

on that very day his plans | perish.

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob;*

whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them;*

who keeps faith for- | ever;

⁷who executes justice for | the oppressed;*

who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; ⁸the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the | fatherless;*

but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign for- | ever,*
your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse of the Day (Pastor Reads)

Alleluia

LSB 190



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

C 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.**

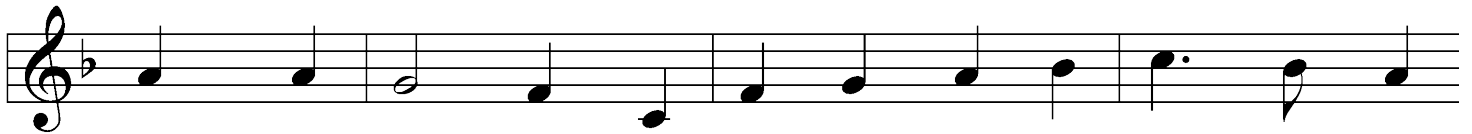
Sit

760 What God Ordains Is Always Good

sts. 1-4



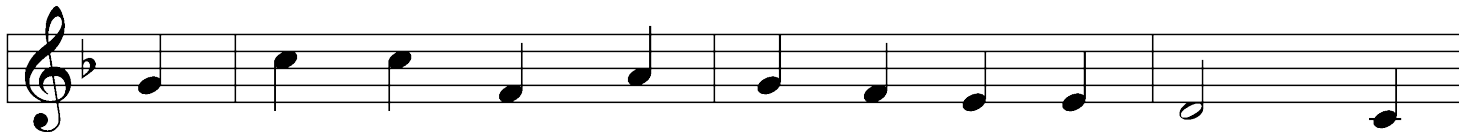
1 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His will is
 2 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He nev - er
 3 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His lov - ing
 4 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He is my



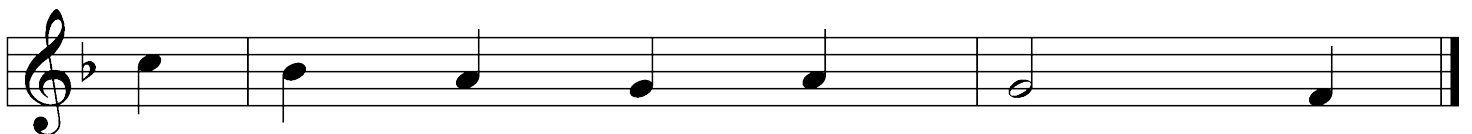
just and ho - ly. As He di - rects my life for me,
 will de - ceive me; He leads me in His righ - teous way,
 thought at - tends me; No poi - son can be in the cup
 friend and Fa - ther; He suf - fers naught to do me harm



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.

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

Sermon Theme - Jesus is The One God You Don't Have To Worry About

Sermon Review Questions/Notes

1. What is really happening when we worry?
2. What are some things you make into gods and worry about?
3. When we worry how are we making ourselves god?
4. Why is the law unable to fix our worry?
5. How does the gospel mean that Jesus is your lord?
6. Why are you more valuable than the birds?
7. How will God clothe you more beautifully than the lilies of the field?
8. What is the kingdom of God and His righteousness?
9. How is worrying work righteousness?
10. How is Romans 8:32 (below) perfectly parallel to Matthew 6:33?
"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
C Amen.

Stand



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.

Sit

565 Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ



1 Thy works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad - ness to this heart;
 2 Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my bruis - ed soul;
 3 Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the crush - ing load
 4 Thy death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ran - som due;
 5 Thy righ - teous - ness, O Christ, A - lone can cov - er me;



They tell me all is done, They bid my fear de - part.
 Thy stripes, not mine, con - tain The balm that makes me whole.
 Of sins that none could bear But the in - car - nate God.
 Ten thou - sand deaths like mine Would have been all too few.
 No righ - teous - ness a - vails Save that which is of Thee.

Refrain



To whom save Thee, Who canst a-lone For sin a-tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt.

Tune: The Parish Choir, 1850, London

Text and tune: Public domain

Offering

Prayer of the Church

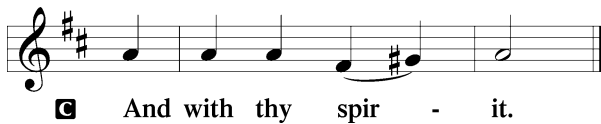
Stand

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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.

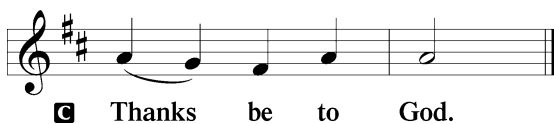
P The Lord be with you.



Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.



Benediction

LSB 202

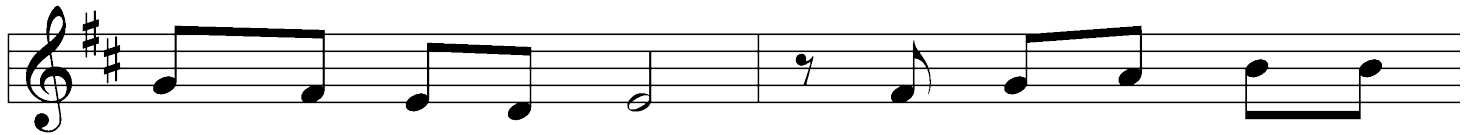
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



736 Consider How the Birds Above



1 Con - sid - er how the birds a - bove Feed day by
 2 The lil - ies grow, they do not toil; How fair is
 3 Set not your heart on food or drink, Nor be weighed
 4 Be on your guard a - gainst all greed, For life is



day with care - free ease— Does God not keep them
 their fra - gil - i - ty— If God clothes these, which
 down by world - ly care; A - bout such things the
 more than what we own. Our Fa - ther knows our



in His love? Are we not worth much more than these?
 quick - ly spoil, Will He not clothe both you and me?
 god - less think, Yet nev - er thank the Lord in prayer.
 ev - 'ry need Be - fore our needs to us are known.

5

Be not afraid to suffer loss

Of all the things for which you pray,
 For He who faced for you the cross
 Will give you strength to live each day.

6

Seek first God's reign, His boundless grace,
 His holy name in all you do:
 Christ first and last in ev'ry place;
 All else will then be given you.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Daniel Zager, 1951

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.
We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.
We invite you to join us every Sunday.



**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today **9:00 a.m. Bible Study and Sunday School**
9/28/25 10:00 a.m. Divine Service
 11:15 a.m. Council Meeting

Thursday 4:00 p.m. Catechism class.

10/7-10/9 Pacific Coast Pastoral Conference in Spokane. Pastor Ude and Pastor and Barb Gullerud are planning to attend.

CLC CALL NEWS CALL NEWS Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer of Berea Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI.

Prayers

Jerry Dimpel - He was hospitalized last week with Covid. Pastor visited him and brought him the sacrament in the hospital in San Jose. His condition has been slowly improving.

Warren Malach - Joy and Warren were down in Mountain View last week for a doctors appointment regarding a possible surgery. That surgery - a TAVR notice heart valve installation - is planned for sometime around Thanksgiving. The prognosis for it is home to normal activity by one week.

Catechism Memory Work
The First Commandment
You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Bible Stories To Read (Or listen to) At Home:

1. Genesis 1:1-13 - The Story Bible Pages 21-22
2. Genesis 1:14-2:3 - The Story Bible Pages 23-25
3. Genesis 2:4-25 - The Story Bible Pages 26-28
4. Genesis 3 - The Story Bible Pages 29-32
5. Genesis 4 - The Story Bible Pages 33-35

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