

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2022

Greetings and Welcome

Special Visitor – Abram

Call to Worship – “Come All You People” ELW 819 (piano)

1. **Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come now and worship the Lord.**
2. **Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior; come now and worship the Lord.**
3. **Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit; come now and worship the Lord.**

**Confession and Forgiveness*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: From the beginning of time God made covenants with God's people - promises that create relationships filled with expectation. We expect that the one who makes the covenant will be faithful and follow through on their promise. God has done this time and time again. God expects that we will follow God and live in the covenant God made with us. We fall short time and time again. Let's take a moment to confess our sin, express our desire to start anew, and ask for God's forgiveness and strength.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Hymn of Praise – “Change My Heart, O God”

(piano)

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like You.

Children's Sermon: “Father Abraham”

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-9 Reader: Barb Davenport

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:19-20*

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Song— "Answer His Call"

(piano)

**1. A vision of the light that fills the dark. The joy that finds its way into each heart.
Moments of peace between the storms, the fire in the cold to keep you warm.**

Refrain: Answer His call. Savior to us all.

**2. The answers to the questions you can't ask.
The strength to conquer each new given task.**

Forgiveness in the face of pain, the strength to break the mighty bondage chain.

Refrain

**3. The faith that you can trust in Him alone.
The knowledge of His power and how its grown.**

A love that lasts beyond your life, A freedom that was won through His great strife.

Refrain

Sermon — "Colors of the Covenant — Orange is for Others"

Song of the Day – "The God of Abraham Praise" ELW 831, vv. 1-4 (organ)

- 1 **The God of Abr'ham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love—
'I Am the One I Am'-- by earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.**
- 2 **The God of Abr'ham praise! At your supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
I all on earth forsake-- its wisdom, fame, and pow'r--
and you my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.**
- 3 **The God of Abr'ham praise! Your all-sufficient grace
shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.
You deign to call me friend; you call yourself my God!
And you will save me to the end through Jesus' blood.**
- 4 **Your promise you have sworn; I on your oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.
I shall behold your face; I shall your pow'r adore,
and sing the wonders of your grace forevermore.**

**The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

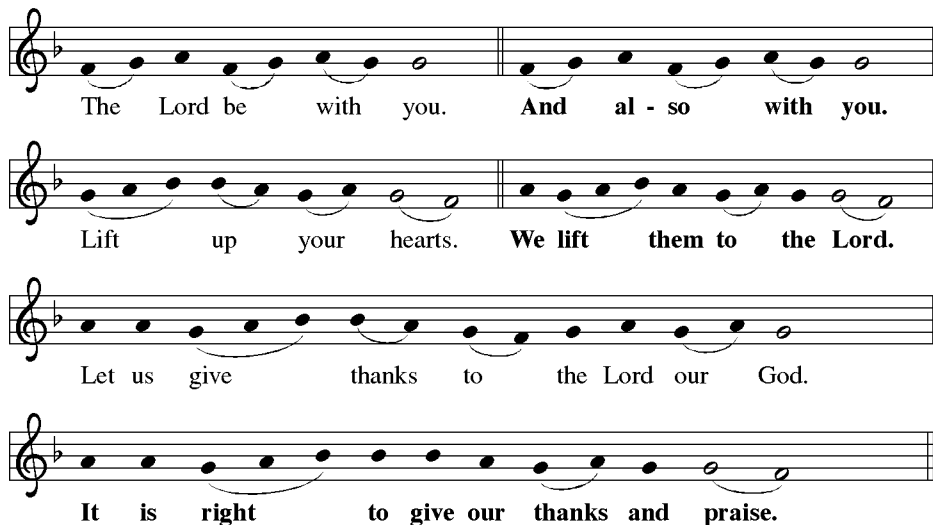
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers*

Stewardship Time

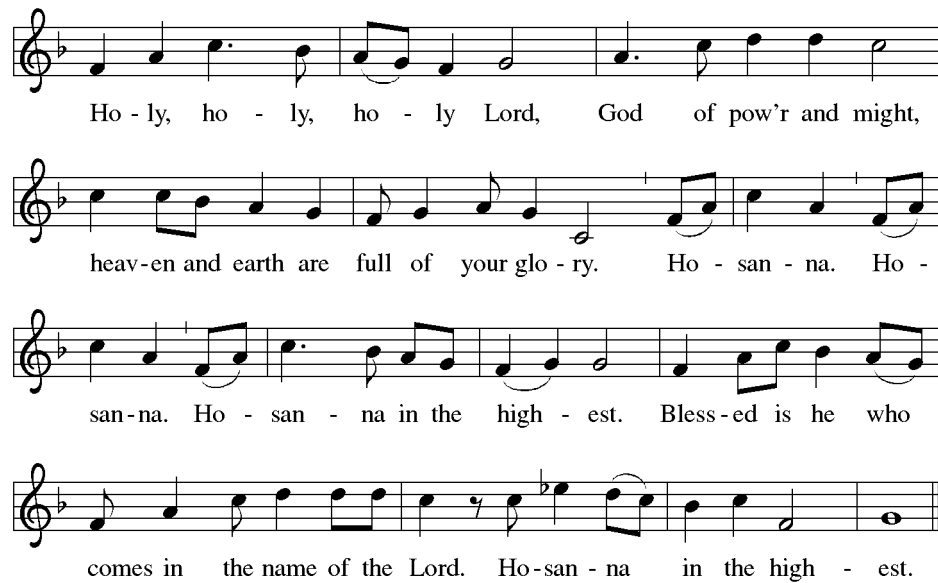
"One Step He Leads," arr. Choplin

Chancel Choir



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord's Prayer*

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.

Communion Songs:

“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks” (WOV 671) *(piano)*

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the King of creation. *Refrain*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain*

We have been crucified with Christ; now we shall live forever. *Refrain*

God has proclaimed the just reward: life for all people, alleluia. *Refrain*

Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior. *Refrain*

“Blessed Assurance” ELW 638 *(organ)*

1. **Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2. **Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain***
3. **Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
*Refrain***

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

**Benediction*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW 618 (organ)*

1. **Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**
2. **Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm,
Shield me with your mighty arm.**
3. **When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Ken Devlin
Greeters: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson
Reader: Barb Davenport
Usher: Doris Robinson
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Pianist: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Financial Assistants: Karen Sibert & Kelly Street
Chancel Committee: Martha Krohe
Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

Marilyn Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Melissa Street
Kelly Hartz	Nichole Licht	Carol VanderKloot
Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	

Church Council Members:

Barb Davenport	Kelly Hartz	Kelly Street
Ken Devlin	Mike Oldenettel	Lisa Taylor
Naomi Hahn	Karen Sibert	

The altar plants are given today by Connie & Gary Braner
in memory of Maurice Driver and Lois Tippin's birthdays

Song Credits

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“Change My Heart, O God,” from **Songs for Praise & Worship**, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583

“Answer His Call,” words and music by Joan Andras. Used by permission.

“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks,” from **With One Voice**, © 1995 Augsburg-Fortress. Used by permission.

News Updates

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, September 18, 10:30am: Sunday School

Monday, September 19, 12-1pm: Dwelling in the Word Zoom

Wednesday, September 21, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

10am: Discipleship Group in the Library

6pm: Women's Fellowship Night Supper Out

Thursday, September 22, 6pm: Young Adult Group Taco Night at Bahan's
+ Kids' Movie Night

6pm: Exaltation Ringer Rehearsal

6:45pm: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 25, 9:30am: Outdoor Worship + Picnic

10:30am: Sunday School

5:30pm: Confirmation Class

Monday, September 26, 12-1pm: Dwelling in the Word Zoom

Wednesday, September 28, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

12-1pm + 6pm: Pastor's Pick Book Study in Justice Room

Thursday, September 29, 6pm: Exaltation Ringer Rehearsal

6:45pm: Choir Rehearsal

Soup Luncheon Carry-Out Style – Sunday, October 9 – Sign Ups Available

Our annual Soup Luncheon will return this year with a different format. Instead of a sit-down meal, we will be offering Carry-Out Soups (cold) and Desserts on **Sunday, October 9, from 10:30am - 1:00pm**. While some of the jobs needed for a sit-down meal will not be necessary, **we still need your help!**

Sign-up sheets are available (on the counter by the coffee sales) for making **Soups & Desserts** and working for the event. We ask that you bring your soups and desserts **by 10am on Saturday, October 8** for us to begin packaging them into serving containers. Some ice cream buckets are available to bring your soup in, if you'd like to use them.

A **“Worker”** sign-up is available for helping to package on Saturday and helping to serve on Sunday (2 Sunday shifts are available).

Tickets are available for you to buy for yourself or to take to sell to friends (\$7 in advance/\$8 at the door). Advance ticket sales will help us determine how much food we need to provide.

Posters are available for you to take to help us advertise.

There are envelopes available if you'd like to provide a **Monetary Donation** for purchasing extra supplies. Put your envelope in the box provided, and please put your name on the sign-up list.

It has been three years since our last luncheon... even though this one will be different, let's work together to serve our community and share some delicious Lutheran Love! If you have any **tray-type cardboard boxes or small cardboard boxes** to donate, please bring them to church to make carrying food out easier. Thanks!

Music Rehearsals

Exaltation Ringers meet on Thursdays from 6-6:30 pm, and **Chancel Choir** meets on Thursdays from 6:45-7:30 pm. We would love to have you join us - if you're interested in either of these groups, please contact me at jrwelch53@msn.com or 217/652-7009. The choirs offer so much - not only do they add glorious praise to God during the worship services, but the fellowship between the members is also a gift. Hope you will join us!!
Jean Welch, Director of Music

Outdoor Worship and Picnic

A summer staple for our Faith Family has been our outdoor worship service. The fresh air, breeze blowing through the trees, and barking dogs provide a beautiful sanctuary. When faced with the decision for our summer worship schedule, the Parish Worship Committee and Council agreed that we value one Sunday morning service where we can nurture relationships together... but we still want to worship outside! There will be one more Sunday morning service outside on **September 25**. To better accommodate all, there will be seating and communion stations on the grass, on the parking lot, and indoors (with worship visible through windows), as well as being live streamed. Following the service, we are providing a cookout picnic and time for games and activities for all. Our hope is that this will not only be a time of vibrant worship and blessing to our Faith Family, but also to others, so please invite a friend and join us for these wonderful times together!

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea: Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf & flavored; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate—milk & dark; **New Item: \$5.50** coffee pods). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Maintenance Ministry

Do you like small fixup projects? Let us know! Contact the church office for a list of small projects and leave your name so we can organize a maintenance day.

Synod Faith Formation and Prayer Group Opportunities

Our synod is offering some new opportunities to grow in your faith and reach out to the unchurched in our communities. Wanting to dig deeper into your understanding of the Bible? Consider taking the “Understanding the New Testament” course. Six sessions on Saturdays starting September 3 with Bishop John Roth. Consider joining the synod Zoom book group that reads “Deep Roots, Wild Branches” by Michael Adam Beck to stir your imagination about where the Spirit may be leading us. Or join us in prayer on the first Friday of each month on Zoom as we pray for the people and places engaged in starting new ministries and outreach. Visit www.csis-elca.org for more information.

Jacksonville Symphony Chorale

The Jacksonville Symphony Chorale will begin rehearsals for their Christmas concert on Tuesday, October 4, at 7pm in the McGaw Fine Arts Building (room 124) on the Illinois College campus. They are blessed to again have the JHS choir joining them under the direction of Stephanie Soltermann! If you would like to sing with the chorale, contact Terri Benz (217-370-2472), or just show up at the first rehearsal.

Help us fill the Foster Care Closet

The majority of the children who come into foster care arrive with little to nothing. Together, we provide a sense of worth, excitement, and can ease the process of entering foster care. The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is pairing with Central Christian Church to supply children entering foster care with much-needed items. Together, we can do great things! Needed items include:

Walmart Gift Cards	Children’s toothpaste	Underwear (all sizes)
Deodorant	Children’s toothbrushes	Laundry baskets
Hair brushes	Children’s shampoo	Hampers
Socks (all sizes)	Children’s body wash	

Please place your donations in the blue box (located in the coat closet) **by Oct. 30, 2022.**

Eastern Europe Crisis Response -- Ukraine

There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter, basic necessities, and pastoral care. Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water, and hygiene kits. Your gifts will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region. **Give through your congregation;** make check out to Faith with “Eastern Europe Crisis Response” in the memo line.