

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by the Faith Singers* – “Shout to the Lord,” by Darlene Zschech

## GATHERING

*Call to Worship*

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

**C: Amen.**

*Confession*

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*Gathering Song – “Come, Now is the Time to Worship”*

*Refrain: Come, now is the time to worship.*

*Come, now is the time to give your heart.*

*Come, just as you are to worship.*

*Come, just as you are before your God. Come.*

**One day every tongue will confess you are God.**

**One day every knee will bow.**

**Still the greatest treasure remains for those,**

**Who gladly trust you now. Refrain**

*\*Greeting*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

*\*Prayer of the Day*

P: Almighty God, the stories of Genesis help us to know you as a God we can trust. You are El Olam, "Forever God." Your faithfulness is revealed in clothing for Adam and Eve, a rainbow to Noah, and a child to Abraham and Sarah. Help us to know you, trust you, and follow you as our ancestors did of long ago. Help us to know, trust, and follow your son today, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**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.*

*Children's Sermon*

## WORD

*Reading:* Genesis 22:1-14

Reader: Patty Nelson

<sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup>He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” <sup>6</sup>Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. <sup>7</sup>Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them walked on together.

<sup>9</sup>When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>12</sup>He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” <sup>13</sup>And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide,” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

*\*Gospel Reading:* John 1:19-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?”

He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

<sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."

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

*Scripture Song – "Blessed Be Your Name"*

1. **Blessed be your name In the land that is plentiful  
Where your streams of abundance flow Blessed be your name**
2. **Blessed be your name When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness Blessed be your name**

*Refrain:*

*Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say  
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name*

3. **Blessed be your name When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's 'all as it should be' Blessed be your name**
4. **Blessed be your name On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering Blessed be your name** *Refrain*

*Sermon:* “God Forever”

*Song of the Day* – “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” ELW 733

- 1 **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

*Refrain*

- Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**
- 2 **Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***
  - 3 **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

*\*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 of Intercession*

*Stewardship Time*

“This Is My Father’s World,” arr. Line  
*Jean Welch, piano*

*—We now have Worship Cards in the pews.*

*Please let us know you are here, share a prayer request, and place your card  
in the offering plate as a practice of our stewardship—*

*\*Offertory*

“Doxology” ELW 884

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*\*Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*\*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*

**“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”**

- 1. How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure,  
That he should give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.**
- 2. Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life – I know that it is finished.**
- 3. I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer,  
But this I know with all my heart, his wounds have paid my ransom.**

**“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” ELW 759**

- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,  
oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!**
- 2 May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;**

**bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

- 4 When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll;  
blest Savior, then, in love fear and distrust remove;  
oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

*\*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*

## SENDING

*\*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.**

*\*Sending Song* – “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” ELW 543

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**
- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,  
here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**

3      “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,  
here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

*\*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Song Credits**

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship,” words & music by Brian Doerksen, Vineyard Songs, © 1998. CCLI#973583

“Blessed Be Your Name,” words and music by Matt and Beth Redman, © 2002 ThankYou Music. CCLI#973583

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“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us,” from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583

**Worship Assistants**

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner

Greeter: Lillian Korous

Reader: Patty Nelson

Usher: Judy Dillard

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Greg Kimler & Kelly Street

Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert

Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



**Singers:**

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

**Church Council Members:**

Malinda Carlson

Marilyn Dichsen

Greg Kimler

Monica Proefrock

Ken Devlin

Kelly Hartz

Patty Nelson

Kay Schnitker

Kelly Street

## What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, September 21, 9:30am: Worship                      **Newsletter Deadline**  
11:00am: Bible Study  
4:30-6:00pm: Bible Boot Camp

Sunday, September 28, 9:30am: Worship                      **Friends from Faith**  
2:00pm: Cards/Cubs Game in the Great Room

Saturday, October 4, 8:00am: Cooking for  
9:00am: Men's Breakfast

## News Updates

### Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

### Faith's Little Flock

(Ages 2–7) gathers during worship right after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

This month, Faith's Little Flock is excited to introduce a new curriculum aligned with the Lectionary and Pastor Adam's sermons. The children will explore stories of creation and resurrection, learn about Abraham and Isaac, and hear about Jacob's Dream. Through engaging activities, they will experience the stories by learning, living, and singing them. We also provide materials for parents to continue these lessons at home.

Faith's Little Flock warmly welcomes—and deeply appreciates—our adult and older youth volunteers. If you're interested in spending time with the children during part of the Sunday worship service or joining the teacher rotation for Faith's Little Flock, please reach out to Melissa Street or Pam Devlin. Blessings, *Melissa*

### Join Us as We “Go Deeper”

After worship scripture and sermon discussions will continue in the Justice Room with Pastor Adam.

### Bible Boot Camp – this afternoon 4:30-6:00pm

Our second Bible Boot Camp session will be today at Faith. Meet at 4:30 for lessons on Abraham, Isaac, and Moses. Supper will be provided at 5:30, and we will end at 6:00.

## **Cards/Cubs Game**

Calling all Cardinal & Cub fans for an afternoon of friendly rivalry at Faith. Join us in the Great Room on **Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm** to watch the last regular season match-up for these two teams. There will be snacks and drinks available. Plus we'll have some friendly games in between innings. Please add your name to the **Sign-Up sheet** (on the Coffee Sales Counter). Put on your red or blue (or both!) and come join the fun!

## **Music at Faith**

As always, we would love to have more people involved in the music ministry at Faith. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts at our worship services – all are welcome! [jrwelch53@msn.com](mailto:jrwelch53@msn.com) or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

## **Jacksonville Area Community Food Center**

There is always a need for food donations at the Food Center. Some ideas: canned pasta and meat (Chef Boyardee), canned chicken or tuna, cereal, canned soups, peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, Ramen noodles, instant oatmeal, juice, canned fruit, Gatorade, and Jello or pudding cups. Please consider donating to the Food Center – you can put your donations in the cloth bins in the Mission and Ministry Center (coat closet).

## **Fall Fest Trunk-or-Treat, Meal, and Polka Service... A Barrel of Fun!**

Roll out the barrel as we join for some fun, food, and worship on **Saturday, October 25**. It will be a day of worship, fellowship, and outreach for our Faith Family and the entire community. We start at 4:00 with some toe-tapping worship with a liturgy set to favorite polka tunes in the Great Room. Then, bring on the food! Bratwurst, sauerkraut, potato salad, all washed down with mugs of root beer, then with some German chocolate cupcakes to top it off. The fun continues outside for our second annual Trunk-or-Treat with decorated trunks and activities. These events are for the entire community, and there are many ways to participate.

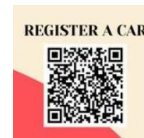
See the **Sign-Up sheet** on the counter by the coffee sales: to prepare potato salad (German or regular, recipes provided) and cupcakes, to help set, serve, and clean up.

A **Sign-Up** is also available for hosting a trunk, booth, or game for the **Trunk-or-Treat**. Questions? Talk to Monica Proefrock.

This takes the place of our Soup, Salad, and Dessert event this year, so let's come together, invite our neighbors, and have a barrel of fun!

## **“Fun in the Sun” Car Show and Worship Service to benefit Marilyn Dichsen**

City Church is hosting a car show and outdoor worship service at Nichols Park on Sunday, September 28 (720 E. Vandalia). This year they wanted to support a local need and are designating all proceeds to go to Marilyn Dichsen’s medical expenses. If you have a car you would like to register, snap the QR code to the right. Some from Faith will be heading over after worship. Free food and inflatables start at 11:15, and the award ceremony (including Marilyn’s award of top car!) is at 2:00.



## **Dove-Awarded Christian Artist Josh Wilson**

will be performing a free community concert at the Twisted Tree on Sunday, September 28, 2025. The festivities begin with a pre-concert featuring local musicians at 4:30 pm, followed by Wilson at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to bring a lawn chair or blanket, and enjoy this family-friendly event!

Josh Wilson is a Dove Award-nominated artist, ASCAP Christian Songwriter/Artist of the Year, and one of the most engaging solo performers in Christian music. Known for his unforgettable one-man-band live shows, he loops, layers, and switches instruments in real time, sometimes playing as many as 20 in a single night. With over two decades in the industry, millions of streams, and multiple Top 10 radio singles, Josh has built a career on catchy melodies, deep lyrics, and a mission to make people feel less alone. Pre-concert performers include Two by Two, The Benz Family, and the Howard Brothers.

Twisted Tree is located at 1061 E. Morton Ave. in Jacksonville. Attendees are encouraged to bring a canned food donation for local charities, or a cash donation for the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches Unmet Needs program. This event is made possible by funding from area donors, The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches, and The Fellowship of Christian Athletes.