

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by Sandi Watts*

## GATHERING

*Liturgy of Harvest (by Mary Lou Jansen – SAM)*

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

**C: Amen.**

P: God of the harvest, thank you for creating the beauty of the fall season as autumn spreads your glorious splendor across the earth. Autumn reminds us to open our eyes to the spiritual fields we walk through every day. We praise you for the joy of the harvest, new beginnings, cool air, and the graceful cascade of falling leaves. We are blessed by your good earth that has faithfully yielded its bounty. May we be mindful stewards of the land you have entrusted us with, appreciating the wonders You have created. May we always be diligent harvesters in your fields of grace that many hearts may overflow with gratefulness for your provision, salvation, and love.

**C: Amen**

P: Dear God, fill our hearts with joy as we gather the harvest. Let us celebrate the fruits of our labor with gratitude and happiness. May this season be a reminder of Your endless blessings. Lord in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer**

P: Generous God, all good gifts come from you. You send the sunshine and the rain, and it is through your love and care that we enjoy the harvest time. Thank you for providing so richly for our needs and help us to share the good things we have with those who have little or nothing. Lord in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer**

P: God of Provision, we come before You with grateful hearts, thanking You for the bountiful harvest You have provided. Your generosity and love are evident in the abundance of crops and the beauty of the fields. We are humbled by Your provision and care. Lord in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer**

P: Lord, we ask for Your continued blessings on the farmers and workers who toil tirelessly to bring forth this harvest. We ask for Your protection over our fields and workers. Keep them safe from accidents and harm. Grant them strength, wisdom, and safety as they gather the fruits of their labor. May their efforts be rewarded with plentiful yields and may their hearts be filled with joy and gratitude. Lord in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer**

P: We also pray for those who are in need, that this harvest may reach them and provide nourishment and hope. Let this season of abundance be a reminder of Your endless grace and mercy. Help us to share generously with others, reflecting Your love in our actions. Lord in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer**

P: Lord, we pray for your blessing on every kind of harvest that we enjoy. Thank you for the harvest of the land and the sea. Bless too the harvest of factory, mine, and workshops. Bless the harvest of research and of creative art. Bless the harvest of lost souls who have found their way to your bountiful grace. May we work together with you in every area of life to produce what is worthwhile, good, and fruitful. May you be glorified in it all. Lord in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer**

*Gathering Song – “Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King”* (piano)

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory fill my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore thee; May I still thy good-ness prove.**

**I was lost in utter darkness 'til you came and rescued me.  
I was bound by all my sin when your love came and set me free.  
Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home.  
Now your grace is always with me, and I'll never be alone.**

*Refrain:*

**Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.  
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.  
Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.  
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.**

O, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

*Refrain:*

Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.  
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.  
Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.  
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.

*\*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: God of blessings, we praise you for the gift of your presence. As your messengers ascended and descended on Jacob, open our eyes and hearts to recognize your presence among us. Fill us with your Spirit as we worship you in joy and thanksgiving, and lead us with your Spirit as we bring your presence to others.

**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 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

*Reader:* Liddy Stark

27When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, "My son," and he answered, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup>He said, "See, I am

old; I do not know the day of my death. <sup>3</sup>Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. <sup>4</sup>Then prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die.”

<sup>15</sup>Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob, <sup>16</sup>and she put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. <sup>17</sup>Then she handed the savory food and the bread that she had prepared to her son Jacob.

<sup>18</sup>So he went in to his father and said, “My father,” and he said, “Here I am; who are you, my son?” <sup>19</sup>Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me.” <sup>20</sup>But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the Lord your God granted me success.” <sup>21</sup>Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.” <sup>22</sup>So Jacob went up to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” <sup>23</sup>He did not recognize him because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands, so he blessed him.

<sup>28</sup>Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup>And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, <sup>14</sup>and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. <sup>15</sup>Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” <sup>16</sup>Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

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

*\*Gospel Reading:* John 1:47-51

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

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

<sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

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

*Scripture Song* – “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder” (piano)

1. **We are climbing Jacob's ladder, We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
We are climbing Jacob's ladder, children of the Lord.**
2. **God is calling, "I am with you," God is calling, "I am with you,"  
God is calling, "I am with you," God is calling, "I am with you, children of the Lord."**
3. **Surely God is in this place, Surely God is in this place,  
Surely God is in this place, Surely God is in this place, children of the Lord.**
4. **As we love God, let us serve, As we love God, let us serve,  
As we love God, let us serve, children of the Lord.**

*Sermon:* “Highway to Heaven”

*Song of the Day* – “Day by Day” ELW 790 (organ)

- 1 **Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,  
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.  
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me  
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.  
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,  
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;  
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,  
where at last I'll find eternal rest.**
- 2 **Day by day, I know you will provide me  
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;  
I will seek your loving will to guide me  
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.**

**I will fear no evil of the morrow,  
I will trust in your enduring grace.  
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow  
till in glory I behold your face.**

- 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me  
when my burdens grow too great to bear;  
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me  
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.  
Day by day, no matter what betide me,  
you will hold me ever in your hand.  
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,  
I will reach at last the promised land.**

*\*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*

**“Agnus Dei/King of Kings,” by Ligertwood, Ligertwood, Ingram, & Smith  
Faith Singers**

*—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are  
communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate  
as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God  
through the use of our time, talents, and finances—*

*\*Offertory*

“Doxology” ELW 884

(organ)

**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.  
Amen**

## 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*

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” ELW 858 (organ)

- 1 **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration!**
- 2 **Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?**
- 3 **Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
if with his love he befriend you.**
- 4 **Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!**

“Ten Thousand Reasons/Bless the Lord, O My Soul” (ACS 1097) (piano)

*Refrain: Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul; worship His Holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your Holy name.*

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
it's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,  
Let me be singing when the evening comes. *Refrain***

**You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.  
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing --  
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *Refrain***

**And on that day, when my strength is failing,  
the end draws near, and my time has come;  
still my soul will sing Your praise unending --  
ten thousand years and then forevermore! *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*

## 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* – “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing” ELW 547

*(organ)*

- 1 **Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**
- 2 **With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

*\*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Liddy Stark  
Reader: Liddy Stark  
Usher: Larry Kuster  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Organist: Sandi Watts  
Pianist: Jean Welch  
Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen  
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen  
Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Kay Schnitker  
Chancel Committee: Kim Heise  
Coffee Hosts: Verla Buckner & Laura Sweatman



### Singers:

Maddy Crossin	Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street
Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa 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 28, 9:30am: Worship **Friends from Faith**  
10:00am: Fun in the Sun Car Show & Benefit at Nichols Park  
2:00pm: Cards/Cubs Game in the Great Room  
4:30pm: Josh Wilson Community Concert at the Twisted Tree

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

Sunday, October 5, 9:30am: Uganda Celebration Worship  
11:00am: Traditional Worship

The altar plants are donated today by the Roth family  
in celebration of Laura's birthday on September 27

### Song Credits

“Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King,” by Thomas Miller. Used by permission.

“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder,” African-American Spiritual. In public domain.

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“Ten Thousand Reasons/Bless the Lord,” from **All Creation Sings**, © 2020 Augsburg-Fortress Publishing House. Used by permission.

## 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*

### Friends from Faith Card Ministry – A ministry team led by Naomi Hahn

On the last Sunday of each month, everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. **Today**, visit the tall table just outside the sanctuary where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.

### Cards/Cubs Game

Calling all Cardinal & Cub fans for an afternoon of friendly rivalry at Faith. Join us in the Great Room **Today 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. Put on your red or blue (or both!) and come join the fun!

## **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 up, 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!

## **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).

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

City Church is hosting a car show and outdoor worship service at Nichols Park today. This year they wanted to support a local need and are designating all proceeds to go to Marilyn Dichsen's medical expenses. 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 **Today**. 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! 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.*