

September 14, 2025
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00am service with Holy Communion
The Reverend Ben Groth, Preaching and Presiding
Matthew Harrison, Director of Music

Welcome!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship! If this is your first time here, please fill out the yellow welcome card in the pew and place it in the offering plate if you would like to be contacted by Pastor Ben, would like more information about the church, or would like to sign up for our weekly news email.

Restrooms: Our restrooms are located downstairs at the bottom of the stairways at the back of the sanctuary. There are signs about which side has the men's and women's restrooms. There are any-gender solo restrooms in the education wing, one of which has a changing table. Please knock and ensure no one else is inside!

Care and Prayer: If you would like to request prayer or speak with Pastor Ben about struggles, joys, or anything else, please feel free to email him at bgroth@1stlutherannb.org or call/text at 860-348-3966.

Children: We love having children in worship! At the front of the sanctuary there is a "pray ground" with lots of space to spread out and sit comfortably, some toys, and a great collection of books for different ages. All children and caretakers are welcome to use that space anytime during the service!

Volunteering: We have lots of opportunities at First Lutheran to volunteer and serve our community. Our Monday Morning Mingle free meal takes place from 8-9am each Monday, while our free Pasta Dinners take place from 5-6pm each Wednesday. Both of these programs can always use volunteers. If you'd like to help out, or are interested in helping with worship or other things at First Lutheran, please contact Pastor Ben.

Coffee Hour: After the service, please join us downstairs for goodies and coffee, and a chance to get to know one another better!

Gathering

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

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.

A brief silence.

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
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.

THE GATHERING HYMN # 834

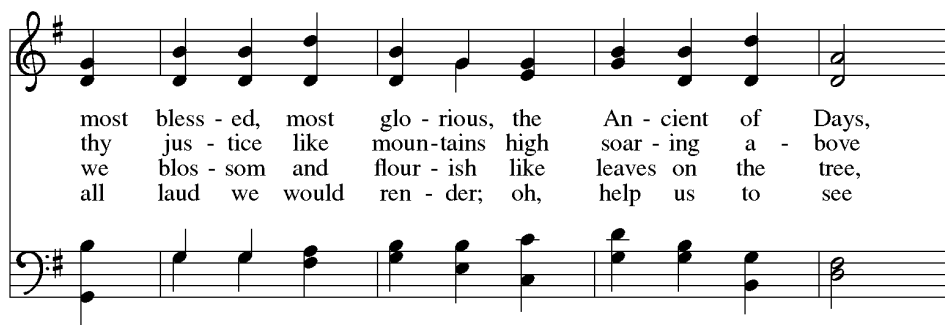
Immortal, Invisible,



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion,
C you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

Word

THE FIRST READING

A A reading from Exodus:

Exodus 32:7-14

⁷The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people. The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-10

Read Responsively

- A** ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- C** ²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- A** ³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.
- C** ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your
sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your
judgment.**
- A** ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- C** ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- A** ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- C** ⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- A** ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- C** ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

THE SECOND READING

A A reading from 1st Timothy :

1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION # 786 v. 1 O Holy Spirit, Enter In



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your
work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,
O Light di - vine, a - round and in us bright - ly shine, your strength
in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is
giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke:

Luke 15:1-10

G Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: ⁴"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?"

⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

THE SERMON

Pr. Ben Groth

Please stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY # 779

Amazing Grace

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess the Christian faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 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,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come 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.

THE PRAYERS

A Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world,
 and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the
 times when we have been unfaithful and renew our commitment to your
 gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy.
 God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority.
 Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good.
 Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal
 divisions and promote peace. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

- A** Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain especially Scott, Gini, Bill, Susan, Marcia, and Lin. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.**
- A** Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.**
- A** Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.**
- A** We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
- C Amen.**

THE PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.**

**The minister and congregation may greet one another
in the name of the Lord.**

- P** Peace be with you. **C** Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

SCAN FOR ONLINE GIVING

Available Now



OFFERTORY MUSIC

The offering is brought to the altar during the Offertory Response

Please stand as able

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #876 V. 1 Let the Whole Creation

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"

Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.

Meal

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE INITIAL DIALOG

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.

THE PREFACE

- It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,
uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the
resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

THE THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- 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.**

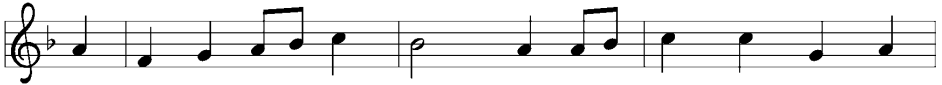
THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

- P** Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.
- Please be seated*

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

HYMN # 480

O Bread of Life From Heaven



1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims
 2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
 3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den



giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
 stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
 splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,



with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
 now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
 let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in



plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
 flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
 heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

THE COMMUNION HYMN# 807

Come, Thou Font



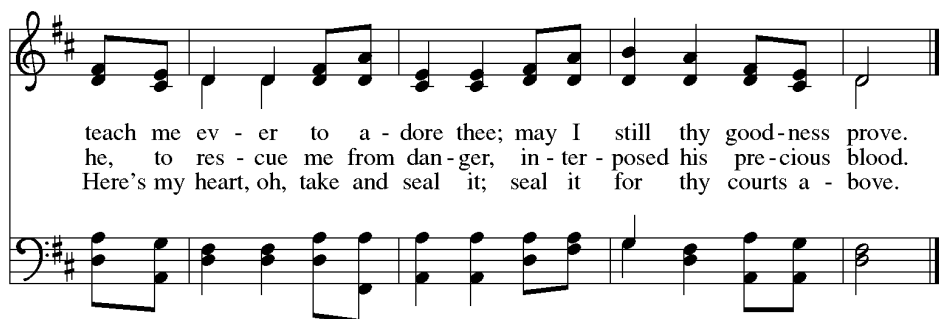
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Please stand as able

Sending

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- G** Amen

THE BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- G** Amen

THE SENDING HYMN # 789 Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be-friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 You have prom-ised to re-ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4 Ear-ly let us seek your fa-vor, ear-ly let us do your will;

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray.
 you have mer-cy to re-lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav-ior, with your love our spir-its fill.

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil-dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear-ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil-dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear-ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

G Thanks be to God.

Thanks to
Worship Assistant
Susan Bisaccia
Communion Assistant
John Halverson
Reader
Louise Patterson
Ushers
Jane Holmstrom, Cheryl Brideaux
Coffee Hour Goodies
Gail Jorden
and
Videographer
Eric Nilsson
for volunteering
to be a part of the service this morning

People Power for 9/21/2025
Worship Assistant - Gail Bates
Communion Assistant - Nancy Robertson
Reader - Craig Diangelo
Ushers - Cheryl Brideaux, Elaine Borselle
Coffee Hour Goodies - Cindy Pavano

calendar

- September 15** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- September 16** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- September 16** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- September 16** - Tuesday, 7pm - Council Meeting
- September 17** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- September 17** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- September 17** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- September 17** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- September 19** - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company
- September 21** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- September 21** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- September 22** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- September 23** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- September 23** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- September 24** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- September 24** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- September 24** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- September 24** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- September 26** - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company
- September 28** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- September 28** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- September 29** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- September 30** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- October 1** - Wednesday, 1pm - Mission/Outreach Meeting
- October 1** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- October 1** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- October 1** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- October 1** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- October 3** - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company

Monday Morning Mingle 8am-9am
 Wednesday Come-As- You-Are Worship Service 4:30pm
 Wednesday Pasta Dinner 5pm-6pm
 Clothing - Please call Marianne Farr
 for more information (860)-637-6460

PRAYER LIST

Please note: Prayer names will remain for two weeks unless renewed in the church office. Named in parentheses are those who submitted the names they follow.

Scott Johnson (Carol McQueeney);
 Gini & Bill Sonstrom (Sue Sonstrom);
 Susan Cramer, Marcia Holmstrom (Jane Holmstrom);
 Lin (Eileen Buys).

Serving in the armed forces: Kevin Dubois; Wesley Givens
 (Beverly Walsh); Zack; Millind; Kienen Dyer (Barbara Pond); Shawn
 Dubois.

OUR VISION

First for what is first: Christ, our Lord

First in nurturing youth and families in faith

First with inspiring worship, fellowship and service

First by reaching out to all

First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

A community of believers in Jesus Christ

77 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut
 (860) 224-2475 + www.1stlutherannb.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.