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☞ Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ☞

ORDER OF WORSHIP • SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

✠ OPENING HYMN

JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE  
LBW #551

✠ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Let us confess our sins to God, who calms all our fears, whose presence is joy, and whose word brings life.

*a time of silence for reflection*

WL: Steadfast and faithful God,

All: **you have revealed the ways of justice,**

**yet we fear to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed**

**by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have**

**for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused,**

**known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others**

**and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away**

**from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you**

**and set us on the path of love;**

**in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

WL: Beloved in Christ, the Almighty God, in mercy, has chosen to suffer and die for us. God's love and justice stretch beyond all understanding. God's mercy and compassion are beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, your sins are forgiven. Go now and serve our risen Savior with joy and gladness!

All: **Amen!**

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH  
LBW #166, STANZA 1, ALTERED

All glory be to God on high  
who has the world befriended.  
To us no harm shall now come nigh,  
the strife at last is ended.  
God shows goodwill to one and all,  
and peace when troubled sinners call.  
Thank God for grace and mercy!

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Let us pray: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your love.  
Without your love, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that  
is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 43:1-7

R: Our First Lesson for this Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost is from the forty-third chapter of Isaiah.

But now, this is what the Lord says—  
he who created you, Jacob,  
he who formed you, Israel:  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;  
I give Egypt for your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in your stead.  
Since you are precious and honored in my sight,  
and because I love you,  
I will give people in exchange for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not be afraid, for I am with you;  
I will bring your children from the east  
and gather you from the west.  
I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’  
and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’  
Bring my sons from afar  
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

1 JOHN 4:11-18

R: Our Second Lesson is from First John, the fourth chapter.

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## ✠ ALLELUIA VERSE

LBW setting two, page 83



## ✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 3:14-17

WL: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

All: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

WL: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You O Christ!**

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

LORD, TAKE MY HAND AND LEAD ME  
LBW #333

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

WL: With the church throughout the ages, let us boldly confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

All: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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## ✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## ✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## ✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: **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.**

## ✠ PAX DOMINI

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

All: **Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### COMMUNION HYMN

MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN  
LBW #94

## ✠ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: **Amen.**

## ✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. God of abundance, in this feast you have fed us and strengthened us. Send us now in peace to share your love with all the world, that we may joyfully worship you in in all that we say, and in all that we do, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

## ✠ BLESSING

WL: 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.

All: **Amen.**

✝ SENDING HYMN AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND  
LBW #448

✝ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

# TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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