

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS-
“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” #707

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER (8:00)

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (10:00) (Please see below to prepare.)	
Preface and Sanctus	p160
Lord’s Prayer	p162
Words of Institution and Pax Domini	p162
Agnus Dei	p163

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because Holy Communion is an expression of our oneness in faith, we request that each person desiring to commune with us examine him/herself on the basis of these points of faith:

I believe that:

- + I am a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness.
- + Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.
- + Jesus Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and
- + The bread and wine I receive are also the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- + All my sins are forgiven through this Sacrament.
- + As God enables me, I pledge to thank, praise, serve and obey Him.

Those who hold in common these teachings are invited to join us at the Lord’s Supper. If you are visiting us for the first time, or have questions or reservations about these points of faith, we invite you to speak with the Pastor before the service.

The lighter colored wine is non-alcoholic for those with special needs. Gluten-free wafers are also available on the small table as you approach the railing.

Hymns during Distribution — Please join in singing:	
• “Children of the Heavenly Father”	#725
• Special Music	
• “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”	#686
Canticle—Thank the Lord	p164
Post-Communion Collect	p166

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN — “On What Has Now Been Sown” #921

THE POSTLUDE

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The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026

WELCOME! Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community because of sin. Jesus’s words today in the Holy Gospel reading are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. In the Old Testament reading, the prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways. And in the Epistle reading, St. Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. Today we gather in the name of Jesus Christ, assured that He is present among us with His gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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THE PRESERVICE MUSIC AND PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL AND PASTORAL GREETING

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

THE OPENING HYMN – “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word” #904

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (taken from D.S. I—p151)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C: **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** 1 John 1:8-9

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

THE KYRIE p 152

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE— “This Is the Feast” **p 155 (on screen)**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Let us pray.
O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set out minds on the things that right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING – Ezekiel 33:7-11, ESV **Pew Bibles p 856**

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. So Ezekiel must faithfully convey God’s warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to allow Jerusalem’s attack—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?”

LECTOR: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING – Romans 13:1-10, ESV **Pew Bibles p 1127**

In this reading, St. Paul reminds us that the obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law.

[St. Paul wrote:] Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this

word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
LECTOR: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE ALLELUIA **p156**

♪ Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Matthew 18:1-20, ESV **Pew Bibles p 978**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.
C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED

THE SERMON HYMN –“Thy Strong Word” vs.1-4 **#578**

THE SERMON **✠ THE RESPONSE ✠**

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE “Thy Strong Word” vs.5-6 **#578**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP