FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Order of Worship — 9:00 AM

AS WE GATHER — We need mercy. In fact, all people need mercy. In today’s Epistle, Paul urges that prayers be made for all people—for kings and all in authority. In our tense political times, we may be reluctant to pray for those we consider our political enemies, but God calls on us to pray for all, whether rich or poor, whether we agree with them or not. God desires to show mercy to all people.

PRESERVICE MUSIC “Just as I Am” by E. L. Ashford

WELCOME [Means please stand; *Means please be seated]

OPENING HYMN Before You, Lord, We Bow LSB 966

1 Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above
2 The nation You have blest May well Your love declare,
3 May every mountain height, Each vale and forest green,
4 Earth, hear your Maker’s voice; Your great Redeemer own;

And rules the world below, Boundless in pow’r and love. Our thanks
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by Your care. For this
Shine in Your Word’s pure light, And its rich fruits be seen! May ev-
Be-lieve, o-bey, re-joice, And worship Him a-lone. Cast down

we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
Bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
Tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grateful song.
your pride, Your sin de-plore, And bow be-fore The Cru-ci-fied.
5. And when in pow’r He comes,  
   Oh, may our native land  
   From all its rending tombs  
   Send forth a glorious band,  
   A countless throng,  
   With joy to sing  
   To heav’n’s high King  
   Salvation’s song!

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P God invites us to speak to Him.
C He wants to hear from us.
P He longs to hear our supplications and prayers,
C our intercessions and thanksgivings for all people.
P God desires that all people are saved
C and come to a knowledge of the truth.
P Whether rich or poor, rulers or the destitute,
C God desires to save all people.
P Blessed be the name of the Lord
C from this time forth and forevermore!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Though God invites us to speak with Him in prayer, we have ignored His invitation. We may be tempted to choose complaining and worrying over conversing with God. We may be tempted to listen to ourselves and the world instead of to God’s Word. We turn to God’s infinite mercy and ask for His forgiveness.

[Silence for reflection.]

P Heavenly Father,
C we confess that we have ignored You and the gift of prayer and conversation with You. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins. Restore us as Your beloved people.
P God hears your confession and invites you back into holy conversation with Him. Almighty God in His mercy showed His love for us in this, that He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise 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. We rejoice in the mercy of God’s forgiveness. We will listen and speak to Him.

INTROIT

Ps. 119:137–140, 142; antiphon: Ps. 119:144

P Your testimonies are righteous forever;
C give me understanding that I may live.
P Righteous are you, O LORD,
C and right are your just decrees.
P You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness
C and in all faithfulness.
P My zeal consumes me,
C because my foes forget your words.
P Your promise is well tried,
C and your servant loves it.
P Your righteousness is righteous forever,
C and your law is true.
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P Your testimonies are righteous forever;
C give me understanding that I may live.

HYMN OF PRAISE  Earth and All Stars  LSB 817

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the
2 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snow-storm! Sing to the
3 Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals! Sing to the
4 Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the
5 Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes! Sing to the

Lord a new song! Oh, victory! Loud shouting
Lord a new song! Flowers and trees! Loud rustling
Lord a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming
Lord a new song! Lime-stone and beams! Loud building
Lord a new song! Athlete and band! Loud cheering

Army! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Dry leaves! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Cellos! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Work-ers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
People! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain
He has done marvelous things.

I too will praise Him with a new song!

(continued)
6. Knowledge and truth!
   Loud sounding wisdom!
   Sing to the Lord a new song!
   Daughter and son!
   Loud praying members!
   Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

7. Children of God,
   Dying and rising,
   Sing to the Lord a new song!
   Heaven and earth,
   Hosts everlasting,
   Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain


PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Let us pray.

All: O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.
P Let us share this peace with one another.
(People greet one another saying: "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

I This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

1 Timothy 2:1–15

EPISTLE LESSON

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

I This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

1 Tim. 2:5–6a

ALLELUIA VERSE

All: Alleluia. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all. Alleluia.

Luke 16:1–15

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
Hymn of the Day: Lord of All Hopefulness

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,

Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:

Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,

Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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Sermon: "Forgiveness is for Giving" Matthew 6:12
Rev. John Larson; Ascension Lutheran Church

Apostle's Creed
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 there 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.

Offering / Handbell Selection: "Jesus Loves Me"

Offertery: Praise to You and Adoration LSB 692

1 Praise to You and adoration, Blessed Jesus,
2 Hold me ever in Your keeping; Comfort me in
Son of God, Who, to serve Your own creation, Came to pain and strife. In my laughter and my weeping Be with share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I never may me throughout my life. Give me greater love for You, From Your fold or pastures stray. But with zeal and And my faith and hope renew In Your birth, Your joy exceeding Follow where Your steps are leading. life, and passion, In Your death and resurrection.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Dear heavenly Father, You desire that all people are saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. Send out messengers and missionaries to every corner of the earth that people from every tribe, nation, and language would hear the saving mercy of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, send Your mercy to all who are struggling financially, the homeless, the poor, the unemployed, the underemployed, and those dealing with unexpected situations. Lead them through this challenging road and provide people and systems to help them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, You invite us into holy conversation with You through prayer, but we often neglect this invitation. Help us to speak to You more frequently and more fervently. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, You sent Your Son to be the mediator between God and humanity. Grant us peace and reconciliation in our homes, our congregation, our community, our country, and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [especially . . .]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, we commend all of these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer. Amen.
LORD'S PRAYER
F O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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.

BENEDICTION
F The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious
to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.
C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN
You Are the Way; Through You Alone
LSB 526

1 You are the way; through You alone Can
2 You are the truth; Your Word alone True
3 You are the life; the empty tomb Pro-
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant

we the Father find; In You, O Christ, has
wisdom can impart; You only can in-
claims Your conquering arm, And those who put their
us that way to know, That truth to keep, that

God revealed His heart and will and mind,
form the mind And purify the heart.
trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE
"Praise the Lord" by Carol Kumler

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THE LUTHERAN HOUR MESSAGE
KOA 850 AM: Sunday @ 6:00 am

September 29: "The Story We Needed", Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker
Genesis Series – (Genesis 5-9)