

***WELCOME TO WORSHIP  
AT  
WHITNALL PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH***



***Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost  
Sunday August 31st, 2025***

Pastor Michael Fazio is presiding.

We have come together today as members and guests to worship God and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We hope our worship will be uplifting and provide a source of hope and strength for the week ahead.

If you believe that the Lord is truly present for us in the Sacrament in body and blood for the forgiveness of sin, you are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HYMN SING

### CALL TO WORSHIP *880 O God Beyond All Praising (Vs 1)*

- 1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as Pastor begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls us beloved children,  
who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from  
all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Faithful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways  
that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you  
have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit  
work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know  
the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, Our risen Lord. Amen.**

P: In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are  
forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy,  
and inspire you to live for others.

**C: Amen.**

## **ENTRANCE HYMN    526   *God Is Here!***

- 1    God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
     may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
     Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
     wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
- 2    Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;  
     here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.  
     Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
     here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.
- 3    Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
     here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
     Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
     what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
- 4    Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,  
     keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.  
     Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive.  
     We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

## **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.**

## **KYRIE    *ELW 154***

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Have mercy O Lord.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE    *This is The Feast ELW Setting 4 Pg 149***

Cantor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**All:        Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set  
              us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom  
              and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.  
Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn  
of all creation; Blessing and honor and glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb  
who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray . . . O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING** *a reading from **Proverbs 25:6-7a***

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.*

<sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, <sup>7a</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 112**

*The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> **For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

<sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

## **SECOND READING** *a reading from **Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16***

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" <sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Refrain:***

***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light onto my path.***

***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light onto my path.***

**When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,  
still you're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near.  
Please be near me to the end.   *Refrain***

## **GOSPEL**

**P: The Holy Gospel** *according to Luke 14:1, 7-14*

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

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. <sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." <sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY 651** *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power (Vs 1, 3, 5, 7)*

- 1 Oh, praise the gracious pow'r that tumbles walls of fear  
and gathers in one house of faith all strangers far and near:

***Refrain***

**We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**

- 3 Oh, praise inclusive love, encircling ev'ry race,  
oblivious to gender, wealth, to social rank or place: **Refrain**
- 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev'ry shore  
with visions of a world at peace, no longer bled by war: **Refrain**
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ with faith's bright songful voice! Announce  
the gospel to the world and with these words rejoice: **Refrain**

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God,  
for God is near.

*a brief silence.*

A: For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday  
school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for  
speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who  
labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and  
pastures and provide for all creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the leaders of towns, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give all church members a spirit to welcome visitors and bless the work of those who feed and nourish those in need. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: For the lowly we pray, you provide for the needs of vulnerable communities and those who are unemployed or in any need. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence . . . . Especially those who are ill and in need of healing. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them, through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **OFFERATORY HYMN *ELW 186 Create in Me a Clean Heart***

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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.**  
**Amen.**

## 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.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . .  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *ELW Setting 10 Pg 207*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy and Mighty Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened His arms to all.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### **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**

***THE BODY OF CHRIST, GIVEN FOR YOU. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, SHED FOR YOU.***

*As we accept the Lord's gift of His body and blood, we will receive Him in our refilled cups containing the wafer and juice or at the rail, in the fullness of faith that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements. One Body, One Mind, One Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's precious gift for you.*

### **COMMUNION SONG 195 Lamb of God**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMNS 462 Now We Join In Celebration  
494 For The Bread Which You Have Broken**

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE *674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ Vs 1 & 3*

- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

### ***Refrain***

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again,  
earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!

### ***Refrain***

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . Mighty and compassionate God, you have brought us over from death to life through your Son, Our Risen Savior, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING

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 HYMN    769 *If You But Trust in God to Guide You***

- 1 If you but trust in God to guide you  
with gentle hand through all your ways,  
you'll find that God is there beside you  
when crosses come, in trying days.  
Trust then in God's unchanging love;  
build on the rock that will not move.
- 2 What gain is there in anxious weeping,  
in helpless anger and distress?  
If you are in your Savior's keeping,  
in sorrow will he love you less?  
For Christ who took for you a cross  
will bring you safe through ev'ry loss.
- 3 The Lord our restless hearts is holding,  
in peace and quietness content.  
We rest in God's good will unfolding,  
what wisdom from on high has sent.  
God, who has chosen us by grace,  
knows very well the fears we face.
- 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving,  
offer your service faithfully.  
Trust heaven's word; though undeserving,  
you'll find this promise true to be.  
This is our confidence indeed:  
God never fails in time of need.

## **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace, to love and serve Our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

